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The footprint of the Beijing Olympiad



CFP Photo

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Is the economy bound for an Olympic slump?

By Huang Daohen

Will China change after the Olympics? The action ended last Sunday on the track, in the pool and on the courts of Beijing, and now the world is watching post-Olympic China.

Will the economic boom come to an end? What impact will the Olympics have on Beijing? Will the Games contribute to further modernization?

The global debate began almost as soon as International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge closed the Games, calling it "truly exceptional."



The Games brought huge development, but many worry it may cause the overall economy to putter out.

Xinhua Photo

The Olympics will not be a watershed

Virtually, every country that hosted an Olympics – including Japan and South Korea – suffered an economic slump in the following year.

Zhang Xiaojing, an economist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said China's economy won't suffer from post-Olympics decline as factors behind its growth have not been tied to the Games.

Host countries often benefit from rapid investment growth before an Olympics and lose momentum afterward, Zhang said.

Japan's economy slowed from 13.1 percent in 1964, when it held the Tokyo Olympics, to 5.2

percent the next year. Similarly, South Korea slipped to 6.7 percent from 10.6 percent in 1988 during the Seoul Olympics.

"The economic influence of the Olympics is notable for Beijing. But as the city accounts only for a fraction of the country's GDP, the Olympics will have limited impact on the overall economy," Zhang said.

Unlike Seoul and Tokyo, which accounted for 27.7 percent and 26.3 percent of the economies of South Korea and Japan, Beijing's output contributes 3.6 percent to the national total.

Even so, the economy is set to slow for other reasons in the third quarter, mainly the result of macroeconomic controls imposed to

rein in growth.

"The economy will continue to ease during the rest of this year, but it has little to do with the end of the Beijing Olympics," Zhang said. "The slowdown in economic expansion was planned as part of national macroeconomic policies. It is not post-Olympic syndrome."

Sponsors say money well spent

For Olympic sponsors, any Games investment is money well spent. During the 16-day competition, sponsors dumped millions of dollars trying to gain ground for their brands in the Chinese market.

Consumer recognition of com-

panies backing the Olympics has surged, Yang Yuanqing, president of Lenovo, said. His company was the first top sponsor of the Beijing Olympics. People are more willing to buy the products from companies that supported the event, he said.

In 2001, Lenovo delivered the biggest corporate sponsorship amounting to 12 million yuan to support the city's bid for 2008 Olympics. Three years later, it formally became the 6th generation worldwide partner of the Olympics, as well as the first Chinese enterprise to join the TOP Program.

Authoritative market investigation indicates that the brand value of Lenovo has doubled from

30.7 billion yuan in 2004 to 60.7 billion in 2007. Its brand recognition in the overseas market increased eight percent to 70 percent from less than 10 percent before its sponsorship.

Other global sponsors, like Coca-Cola and McDonald's, used Chinese athletes in their Olympic marketing campaigns to tap into a wave of patriotism running.

Coca-Cola, which is locked into funding the Olympics until 2020, said its sales see a short-term boost with each Games.

"But in the long term, we are looking at growing our position in China – our fourth largest market – and this means increasing brand awareness," spokesman Petro Kacur said.

Internet takes over with Olympics on demand

By Zhang Dongya

From what kind of media were people watching when they saw the first gold medal won? According to a survey conducted by the Data Center of the Chinese Internet (DCCI), 46 percent of viewers who were watching learned it from TV and 43 percent from Internet.

"It was the first time in China that the Internet achieved such market penetration," Li Shanyou, the CEO of Ku6.com, said. As a representative of "new media," Ku6 was the only video on-demand Web site selected and approved as a partner of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

He Huixian, vice-president of the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC), said the biggest difference between the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and past years' lay in the usage of new media.

Debuts on 2008 Olympics

In China, the Internet began to cover the Olympic Games starting with the 2000 Sydney Olym-



Li Shanyou Photo provided by Ku6

pics, but in words and pictures. The first year streaming Internet media came to China was 2006, and it was only declared mature this year.

"There are two events this year to mark the maturity of the Internet," Li said. "One is the State Administration of Radio Film and Television issuance of licenses to video Web sites, the other is compa-

nies in IT fields that became sponsors and partners of the Olympics and played an important role."

Ku6.com, founded by Li Shanyou in 2006, was the first video Web site granted license. The 36-year-old Li was the former editor in chief of Sohu.com, a popular portal Web site, before he founded Ku6.

At its two-year anniversary, Ku6 was granted the right to broadcast the 2008 Beijing Olympics as video on demand. During the month-long preparation for the Games, the company recruited scores of new staff and held rush training sessions, as well as moved in new technology including thousands of server boxes on a 250 gigabit connection.

Unlike YouTube or the domestic Tudou.com, Ku6 added more editing options to its front page, to sort out the numerous videos submitted by netizens every day.

An overwhelming success

After 16 days working around the clock, Ku6 achieved

"a big success" with the worldwide sports festival. "Ku6's greatest reward is public praise and recognition. It helped to promote our brand," Li said.

Technically speaking, Ku6 challenged live broadcasting of the Games. Using trained employees and high technology, Ku6 was able to serve videos over the Internet at a delay as slow as 180 seconds after receiving the materials, editing and uploading.

Visits to the Web site reached 270 million, a landmark scale that brought in considerable commercial returns.

"The advertisement income generated in those two weeks was greater than in the last three months," Li said. "Our ad revenue last year was 25 million, and it will jump by one third this year."

"We hope Ku6 will be the first video site to turn a profit, go public and spread to overseas markets," Li said.

Era of VOD is now

The Internet will revolutionize

television in five years with its explosion of online video content and the merging of PCs and TV sets, former Microsoft chairman Bill Gates said last year.

The rise of high-speed Internet and the popularity of video sites like YouTube has already led to a worldwide decline in the number of hours young people spend in front of a TV set.

When Li left Sohu two years ago, he was determined to explore the future of media. "Internet videos will be more and more popular during the next few years. Of the 2008 Olympics' eight IT partners, four were traditional portal Web sites and the other four were streaming video sites," Li said.

During the past two years, streaming videos have played a big role in recording big events. During the Sichuan earthquake, videos of the quake were among the most-viewed on the Internet. Li said the era of streaming video has arrived, and the Olympics was the tipping point.

Venues go to public, private management

By He Jianwei

The flame of the Olympic Games was put out on August 24 in the National Stadium, but the venues will burn on as part of Beijing's heritage. Jacques Rogge, president of the International Olympic Committee, said "the state-of-the-art venues" will leave a rich legacy for Beijing.

But utilization of the venues after the Games has become a tough question for the host cities.

There are 37 venues spread throughout Beijing and the six co-host cities. The newly-built and renovated venues will be utilized in one of two ways. Management will be handed over to the universities after the Games, and off-campus venues will enter the hands of several companies.

As for the temporary venues, some will be dismantled and others will be renovated for new purposes.



The local tourism bureau plans to open shopping malls in the National Stadium and the Water Cube.

CFP Photos

Estimated investment

The venues used an estimated 13 billion yuan (US \$1.91 billion) in investment, and 50 percent came from the central and municipal government and the other half from social mobilization, Liu Zhi, a spokesman for the municipal government, said on August 1.

The money was used to construct 12 new venues, renovate 11 existing ones, construct eight temporary ones and renovate 45 training sites.

"The actual capital amount for the venues will be audited by related departments. The budget will be controlled to be within 13 billion yuan. The actual amount will be subjected to a final estimate and auditing, and will later be released to the public," Liu said.

Post-Games utilization under consideration before construction

While planning for construction, the designers took the location and scope of the venues into consideration.

"We [designed] with an eye on post-Games utilization, and subjected all the facilities to scientific assessment such as scope, location and quantity to decide which to renovate or expand," Liu said.

Six venues went into the city's universities. "We used the university facilities to solve the problem of use after the end of the Games," he said.

Some facilities are in the areas that do not have others sports facilities. "All these sports facilities will be part of the university and benefit both the university and the community. It also shows the spirit of participation," Zhang Nongke, spokesman for the Beijing Municipal Construction Committee, said.

Commercial route: two models

For the newly-constructed venues, there are two commercial models for the structures to follow after the games. One is Public-private partnership (PPP) and the



The basketball stadium in Wukesong has become a great venue for other Chinese basketball tournaments.

other is Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT).

The National Stadium, known as Bird's Nest, is on the PPP operation model, which means a government service or private venture will fund and operate it in partnership with the government and one or more companies. The government and enterprises will share the risk together.

In 2003, the National Stadium Corporation was founded. It is co-owned by the Beijing State-Owned Assets Management Corporation (BSAM), which has a 58 percent stake in its assets, and the China International Trust and Investment Consortium (CITIC), which holds the remaining assets.

BSAM is an organization from the government and CITIC is in the private sector. CITIC has a post-Games license guaranteeing operation rights for the next 30 years.

The stadium will be used to stage sports events at national and international levels, as well as cultural and entertainment activities. Sales of the naming rights of the Bird's

Nest will be part of its operation strategy, Li Hang, chairman of the consortium, said.

The operating cost of the stadium is about 70 million yuan (US \$10.2 million) per year, and the naming rights will be at various levels, such as for the whole stadium and for each entrance and stand.

After the Games, the stadium will be redeveloped to include hotels, restaurants, supermarkets and shopping malls. The reconstruction will cost at least 30 million yuan. After it, commercial buildings will cover 35 percent of the compound.

It will open to the public in October at a reduced price. "We want as many as people possible to enjoy it," he said.

The National Indoor Stadium, Beijing Olympic Basketball Gymnasium and National Convention Center will be operated in the BOT model, which means a private entity will receive a concession from the private or public sector to finance, design, construct and operate a facility for a specified period, often 20 or 30 years. After the concession period ends,

the ownership is transferred back to the granting entity.

During bidding, the related commercial facilities were included in the areas. For instance, Beijing Olympic Basketball Gymnasium and National Convention Center cover some areas of shopping malls and entertainment facilities.

The Olympic Village and the National Indoor Stadium will be operated by one company. After the Games, the Olympic Village will "serve as normal dwelling units for residents of the city. After the Games, the buyers can come in," Deng Yaping, deputy director of the Olympic Village Department, said at the end of July before the Village opened.

Favorable for citizens

The venues are a great legacy for the city, not only from an economic perspective, but also from a cultural one.

Some of the venues are in areas which have been lacking in sports facilities, such as the city's west side. Wukesong Culture and Sports Center has provided more facilities to residents in the area, including Wukesong Indoor Stadium.

The Beijing University of Technology (BUT) Gymnasium is the only Olympic venue located in Beijing's southeastern area.

When construction began, the entire campus was re-planned to bring a better balance between people, nature, school architecture and the environment, with emphasis on post-Games use of the new venue, Zhang Ailin, vice president of BUT, said.

After the Games, the Gymnasium will remain an important cultural legacy. It will be a landmark building on the school's campus, as well as in Beijing's southeast.

"It will serve as the school's activity center, as a recreation center for neighboring residents and as a training base for the national badminton team," Zhang said.



Volunteers cheer for a successful end of the volleyball match. CFP Photo

The road to building volunteer spirit starts here



Zhao Rui, a volunteer
Photos by Zhao Rui

A volunteer's basic work routine

Zhao Rui, a teacher who had just graduated from Nankai University, was a volunteer in the registration center of the Tianjin conference. He was the oldest in his sector and worked 33 days without time off.

"We were at our posts on July 14 and dismissed on August 19 after all the competitions were finished in Tianjin. The registration center is one of the most important sectors, as our job is checking the personal information of all the athletes, coaches, journalists and officers and making certificate cards for them," Zhao said. "Before the Games, we had already participated in the World Cup's Asian zone qualifier games to learn how the whole thing works."

Not looking for the unexpected honor for his services, Zhao Rui said his main purpose was to be a part of the big event which has been the dream of several generations, including the founder of his alma mater, Zhang Boling.

"But the job was far more complicated than I had imagined and I usually finished my work at about 8:30 pm though

By Wang Yu

Besides the athletes, judges, coaches and enthusiastic fans, there were many volunteers seen on televisions during the Beijing Olympics. These young people who mostly came from colleges in Beijing or other co-host cities were selected from 1 million candidates and dispatched to certain sectors such as communication, registration centers and stadium services. This last month may have given them the most precious memories of their lives, while to the country, it was a springboard in the development of China's culture of volunteering.

our schedule was from 9 am - 6 pm. If there were problems with someone's registration information, his or her identity would not be activated. Once it happened, we had to contact the headquarters in Beijing to solve the problem no matter what time it was."

It was quite the same for Li Bowen, a volunteer in the communication sector in Beijing who occasionally had to wake up at 4:30 am to start his day's work. "At the beginning, our task was to pick up foreign Olympic teams at the airport. As our campus is in Fengtai District, I had to get up much earlier than the arrival time. After August 8, we hosted on the buses which transfer the athletes from the Olympic Village to the venues," Li said.

"By the end of the Games, a new job for us was to send the athletes to famous places in Beijing to visit and I was stationed on the Badaling line."

Lessons learned

To be a volunteer means you must do your best to serve others without a thank you. Sometimes you also have to learn to focus and obey the principles. Zeng Wenqi was an Interactive Volunteer at the opening ceremony. "That day was so humid and I had to concentrate on the audience with my back towards the show through the whole ceremony," Zeng said.

"As a student, I have learned a lot this time from the volunteering service by having to deal with different people from different countries. Some athletes were upset with us because they finished their games at midnight and hoped to go back to their rooms as soon as possible, but it was not the departure time for the bus. During these times you had to maintain good manners and try to persuade them to be patient while contacting the command center to see whether an earlier departure could be arranged," Li Bowen said.

"From now on, I think I will treat waiters better when I go to a restaurant, KTV or such places especially by offering them a smile. It is a bad feeling when you offer your service and no one pays attention to you and sometimes even shouts at you," he said.

"Our uniform earned us unexpected popularity and many visitors asked to have pictures taken with us and people would approach and encourage us on the street or on the subway. That sense of honor gave me the boost I needed to get through the tough work," Zhao Rui said.

A mixing of joy and sorrow, being a volunteer is definitely not a blood rush. It requires passion, patience and spirit. The Beijing Olympics brought the volunteer to the front of the stage while actually, a new phase of the process has just started.

The pros and cons of China's volunteer system

By the end of 1993, The Chinese Communist Youth League started to build China's volunteering system and the number of volunteers in the country grew fast. The system is supported by various governments at the national, provincial, and local levels while in Western countries, volunteers are organized by NGOs like Habitat 4 Humanity, the American Red Cross or Meals On Wheels.

In the West, volunteering is part of the culture, but in China, the infrastructure is in a different state. Families have been the basic element of Chinese society for a long time and the sense of family is still very strong. Family is the basic support infrastructure in place that identifies those in need and will do its best to address those needs.

The Chinese volunteers demonstrated their abilities after the earthquake on May 12 in Sichuan Province this year. But the majority of the volunteers around China were college students in the US, most of them are technically skilled and lifelong volunteers.

Many NGOs in China are still in a fragmented and



Zhao Rui and other volunteers help athletes at the stadium.

immature state. Richard Brubaker, the managing Director of China Strategic Development Partners who wrote an article about the culture of volunteerism in China on the China CSR, said the most important two reasons are the lack of issue awareness and the lack of opportunities for ordinary citizens and corporations to get involved.

Post-Games future

To solve the problems, Western-style volunteer programs must be incorporated while support from the government occupies the leading position. The influence of returning Chinese who have lived or studied in foreign countries is also helpful. These people were exposed to volunteering outside the country and when they return they seek opportunities to continue.

According to chinanews.com, Du Shaozhong, deputy director general of the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau, said on July 23 that social volunteers will be organized to participate in daily management. It is a sense indicated that the governmental departments are aware of the volunteers as a supplement to the administration system.

"Having the spirit dedication is a basic requirement to be a teacher, and I derive happiness helping others," Zhao Rui said. "I will tell the stories of our Olympic days to many people especially my students."

Games may be over, but sport is just beginning

By Milo Lee

It has been five days since the Beijing Olympic Games ended. Although the enthusiasm over the competitions is dying down, the attitude about sport has forever changed.

This Summer Olympics has encouraged more people to learn and participate in athletics.

Disabled fans hope more change after the Games

Ye Jiating, a 28-year-old disabled pediatrician from Zhejiang Province bought 44 tickets and took his family to Beijing to watch the Games. After he joined a grassroots reporting campaign to cover the competitions, Ye attracted a following online as "the most outstanding spectator." He collected ID cards from his family and relatives and ordered 100 tickets online – 44 went through.

He said the Beijing Olympics will have a big impact on popular sport in China, especially in cities like Beijing. "Big cities have more exercise facilities, but attitude is more important. I think children will be affected the most," he said.

Ye Jiating comes from a small town in Zhejiang, where physical education or general exercising remain underdeveloped. As a pediatrician, Ye often encourages parents to enroll their children in sports, and after the Olympics, Ye said he would be more active in the future.

"I talked to a few of the volunteers during the Games, they all said although what they do is very arduous and exhausting and some spectators did not understand them, it was still worth it. They told me being the host they felt wonderful," Ye said.

His crutches were not allowed into the stadiums during the Games, so volunteers found him a wheelchair and took him to the front row to watch each competition. One volunteer stood behind



him for four hours and asked every 30 minutes if he needed anything. He said the volunteer was very considerate.

Because Ye Jiating had polio as a child, he is unable to take part in any sports, but he still has the passion for activity. His wife and other family members are also sports fans. They went to all the games they could and cheered for the athletes.

"I could feel people's passion. They were excited when our National Flag was raised and thousands of spectators began chanting the National Anthem," Ye said.

Gym becomes hot zone after the Games

According to an article on 163.com, more than 66 percent of students in China exercise less than an hour a day. A gym membership consultant who gave her name as Jiaojiao said since the Olympics, many parents have sent their children to swimming class and more adults have joined the gym.

"I think people are beginning to realize the importance of exercise – especially when you live in a big city like Beijing, where everybody is so busy. Health problems will slow you down," she said.

Not every child can become Michael Phelps, but all can try.

In Shanghai, many gyms started promotional campaigns to attract more customers. Some organized competitions where people could compete for medals in exercise programs like biking, boxing and shooting. In Tianjin, the number of people who wanted to join the gym soared after the Olympics.

One swimmer told Xinhua News Agency that even though the Olympics was over, the spirit could still live on. Many schools

have opened their stadiums to citizens. In rural areas, people have also begun to realize the importance of physical exercising and have organized local sports teams.

Sports for all

China won 51 gold medals at this Olympics, beating out the US and Russia. But this only means the country's has reached a new level in competitive sport. However, team sports still have a long way to go.

Basketball, soccer and swimming all have a huge fan base in China, but when it comes to competition, China rarely wins. Many experts on sport research have made optimistic assumptions that after the Olympics, both competitive and popular sports will take on a new role in people's lives.

Professor Mao Zhenming, dean of Beijing Sports University's School of Sports and Exercise, told *Outlook Weekly* that sports must return to the regular educational system; the US had great success with that strategy.

Days before the Beijing Olympics opened, the National Sports Bureau held a press conference about popular sports at the Beijing International Media Center. Deputy Chief Feng Jiangzhong told reporters that during these seven years, the government built many sports facilities around the country to promote exercise.

"People have transformed their passion for the Olympics into voluntary participation in exercises, building a rich atmosphere for the Olympics to succeed," Feng said.

The Olympic legacy of encouraging everybody to take part in sport will continue to show strong momentum in the future.

Survey finds change in Chinese attitudes to leisure

By Huang Daohen

In addition to boosting national pride and economic welfare, the Olympic Games will fundamentally change attitudes not only towards sports, but to self-confidence, openness and use of leisure time, a recent survey conducted by the Ogilvy Group in China said.

The study surveyed 1,282 respondents from July 18-25 between the ages of 18 and 54 with questions like how will the Olympics impact your personal life and change China?

Nearly 90 percent of respondents said it would have an impact on sport, and one-third said that the Olympics would make them care more about

sport contrary to the oft-cited belief that sports do not matter in China.

The study found that rather than the Games causing a temporary spike in interest, most respondents want sports to have a long-term impact on the nation's future. Two-thirds of the respondents said the Olympics has changed or will change their approach to leisure time.

"We all heard and thought that the Olympics were about pride and economics, but the optimism of the [people] has surprised us here again," Edward Bell, regional planning director of Ogilvy China, said. "We are now seeing the Olympics as a sporting event that will change

the social landscape by redefining sport and leisure."

Almost one-third of respondents reported that they will participate in more or more varied sports and leisure activities as a result of the Olympics; this will open the door for growth in the sports industry.

"People have underestimated the visceral power and excitement of witnessing high-level sports with their own eyes. They thought they knew all about it. They thought the Games were about economics. Now all of a sudden, they are inspired to pick up some shoes and go for a run. Sport is inspiring – a new kind of passion in China," Bell said.



Wang's success in buying 44 tickets was said to be a miracle.

Photos provided by Beijing Youth Daily

Locals

Editor: Huang Daohen Designer: Zhao Yan

BEIJING TODAY



Will a farewell to the Games be a farewell to blue skies?

The Olympics gave Beijing blue skies and fresh air, but will the environmental policies stick?

By Venus Lee

The Olympics will leave behind marks of environmental action from the capital, which spent billions of yuan to reduce pollution and adopted compulsory regulations to ease traffic congestion during the Olympics and Paralympics.

Clean air was the biggest concern with the Games pending. In order to provide an excellent living and travel environment, the government took drastic anti-pollution steps to clean the sky.

The capital and its neighbors continue to impose measures to curb industrial and vehicular emissions in the case of air pollution.

To implement all these measures, Beijing sank more money into the environment than any other Olympic host. According to statistics released by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, during the 16 days of the Olympic Games, Beijing's air quality scored A-level eight times and B-level seven times. Going back another 16 days, it scored A-level three times, B-level nine times and C-level four times. Before that, there was never an A-level, or excellent day.

Having seen fresh air and blue skies for the first time in memory, many residents are reluctant to return to Beijing's pre-Games position as one of the country's top-30 polluted cities. But after the Games, business activities that were limited during the Olympics will return to normal. Many residents fear pollution will worsen and traffic will return to gridlock after the Olympics when factories reopen, construction resumes and cars once again have free run of streets and sidewalks.



No one knows whether the blue skies and fresh air will remain.

IC Photo

Official response

Carbon measures to stay

Referring to whether the temporary environmental measures will continue, Du Shaozhong, the deputy chief of Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau, said the once temporary measures to control carbon emissions during the Olympics will become permanent – in a modified form – after September.

The government will continue to eliminate those heavy-polluting

vehicles and clamp down on the dust pollution of construction. Environmental protection needs to be strengthened in the construction industry, even though it will raise costs, he said.

Factories which are "severe sources of pollution" will be suspended and forced to curtail production if they fail to resolve their problems, He said.

Odd-even rule undetermined

As for whether the odd-even

license plate rule will continue after the Games, Wang Li, the deputy director of the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau, said no answer has been determined.

Wang said many residents told the bureau through that the odd-even license plate rule is very good, and assuming public transportation is kept at its current standards, they can become accustomed to life without a private car. He said many people requested a long-term

implementation of the odd-even license plate rule, but the government regulations as written now would end September 20.

Although Wang dodged the question of long-term implementation, he said the public has a vital interest in the matter as it is so close to people's lives. He suggested residents can debate the topic amongst themselves, then submit their comments and conclusion to the government for later decision making.

Voice

I hope the government holds a public hearing. It needs to draw up some policies to encourage those big companies and institutions to use shuttle buses.

– Gong Bao, IT worker

I think, firstly, the government should reform the public traffic system to meet international stan-

dards. Secondly, it should push for regional limitation of vehicles inside Fourth Ring Road. It could build large parking lots where people can transfer from private cars to buses. Also, private cars could be limited in their access to the road from 7 am - 8 pm.

– Jeff Hunter, freelancer

Many schools do not have a shuttle bus for the students, so some parents send and pick up children every day. If the odd-even license plate rule continues after the Olympics, it is a real problem for parents and children who live far from school.

– Yan Ping, manager

Restriction of traffic is not the way to resolve these problems. The rich people will just buy another car, and people who live truly far from their office will also be pushed to buy a second. In the long run, the private car market will just see a surge in growth.

– Warren Chien, media

BEIJING TODAY

Weekly

News

The same warmth and cold throughout the globe

Focus
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See through the appearance to perceive the essence
Hear all parties
Development is of overriding importance
Seek common ground while reserving differences



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Fans in frenzy for Olympic memorabilia

By Jin Zhu

The Olympics has ended, but the collection craze continues. Passionate followers of all ages are eager to collect their own or others' favorites for memories or monetary value.

Uniform collecting

Every volunteer's uniform is valuable as far as 25-year-old Yang Jie is concerned. As a sports fan, Yang was eager to be a volunteer in the Beijing Olympics. However, due to her work schedule at a high school, Yang was not accepted. "I felt sad ... at that time," she said. She did not find a way to fulfill her dreams until she considered collecting volunteers' uniforms.

"Although everyone should be a volunteer and ought to contribute to the Beijing Olympics in his own way, I still envy volunteers' identifying uniforms," Yang said. "It represents responsibility and approval."

Yang's first contact with volunteers was on the canoe course in Shunyi Olympic Rowing - Canoeing Park on August 18. "I asked some volunteers whether they would like to sell their uniforms after the Beijing Olympics," Yang said, "I was utterly disappointed that some of them had already decided to give their uniforms to their relatives and friends. I failed to find a suit that fit me at that time."

Yang began to search her favorite suit on the Internet. She said on a popular Chinese collector's Web site, an ordinary volunteer's uniform was going for about 2,550 yuan. "The prices on the Internet varied," Yang said, "By the time I decided on a favorite suit, the price had rocketed to 4,700 yuan."

When talking about her plans after finally obtaining a uniform, Yang said she would not wear it since it only pertains to certain time period. "I will show this suit in my class to encourage students' enthusiasm for dedication and patriotism," she said.

Pricey memories

Collections related to the Beijing Olympics have become much sought after in China. The collections contain regular souvenirs, such as limited-edition copper badges and gold coins, and special items from the Olympics including posters, tickets and phone cards.

For some investors, the value of an item should be judged by three factors: authenticity, fine craftsmanship and limited editions. On the subject of limited-edition copper badges, they were issued at 300 yuan apiece after China's bid for the 2008 Olympics in 2001. The price went



Local residents find their interests in trading pins of Olympic Games.

CFP Photos

up to 700 yuan the following year. And now, it is dramatically risen to about 10,000 yuan.

For most people, collecting is only a hobby that brings many memories and not just



A devotee collects tickets from different Olympic sports.

monetary value.

Olympic posters, tickets for some popular fixtures, phone cards, and souvenirs presented on the opening or closing ceremonies are all favorites. Xu Jian, president of China Collection magazine told Xinhua, it would be virtually impossible to have a complete Olympics ticket collection. He advised collectors to focus on tickets that are likely to grow in value, such as those to the opening ceremony.

Souvenirs in all shapes and sizes

Several kinds of souvenirs are getting a second life among collectors. "Auspicious clouds" scarves, presented to the audiences at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games, have become more and more popular on the night of the opening ceremony, thousands of scarves being waved formed a red sea in the stands. Since they are considered "limited edition," the scarves cannot be purchased in the franchised stores like other regular souvenirs. The scarves have become new targets for collecting. At present, "auspicious clouds" scarves have sold for 3,000 yuan on the Internet.

Newspaper collectors also discovered their favorites related to the Olympics. They have taken a fancy to the Olympic Special, which was published during the Games period. These specials have recorded every memorable detail and moment of the 29th Beijing Olympics. Newspapers spread through several cities, including Beijing and the other six joint

cities. Although it costs thousands of yuan to acquire these specials, many newspaper collectors still rushed after them.

Used tickets from the Olympics are another desirable, especially the tickets of the opening and closing ceremonies and popular fixtures. After the competition between China and the US on the basketball court, many Chinese collectors queued up to buy tickets from spectators leaving the stadium. On the Internet, an ordinary used ticket for the opening ceremony was going for about 10,000 yuan, while tickets from swimming and track and field, were sold for about 300 yuan.

As an important part of the Olympic culture, pin collecting has a large number of passionate followers of all ages. In the Beijing Olympics, Coca Cola Company released "Pin of the Day," featuring with various meaningful elements, including the Beijing Olympic concepts, traditional Chinese culture and Beijing landmark buildings. Due to its limited number and special design, "Pin of the Day" has been a major target of many pin collectors.

Olympics breed greed

By Zheng Lu

"The temporary rent hikes for houses and apartments had no market during the Olympics," a staff member from Woiwojia, a realty agency, said.

As one of the Olympics effects, housing prices began to soar since last autumn. It did not take too long for the hot market to attract more people who wanted a piece of the cake. Some landlords even paid the cost of breaking leases with tenants just to vacate the apartments for the Olympics.

The housing stock near the Olympic venues, which targeted foreigners, was at the frontline. Rents sky-rocketed to, in some cases, seven times the normal rate. Host families circled like vultures awaiting the Olympics to make their killing in the rental market.

But they overestimated and the market cooled down even before the Olympics arrived. Short-term rents have fallen since the mid-June from more than 70,000 yuan to 45,000 yuan per month. As the Olympics hit its stride, some house-owners regained their consciousness from their big money dreams and began to turn their houses back into long-term rentals.

In the first half of this year, the short-term leased houses were only 5 percent of the whole turnover in the housing leasehold market while long-term rentals accounted for 95 percent, according to statistics provided by some large housing agencies.

And there were three reasons to explain it. The high price undoubtedly served as the base. Many star hotels had been booked in advance, still other hotels were available and some of them dropped prices to less than 600 yuan per day, some even to 300 yuan. And high rent houses were leased from 600 to 800 yuan every day.

"To live in hotels is more cost-effective," a staff member of the rental agency, said, "They are cheaper and more comfortable than houses on the whole."

Additionally, it was not a tight market this time. According to the Beijing Travel Agency's survey, the visitors' maximum requirements for beds was 333,000. The number of the beds from all kinds of accommodations was about 650,000 in total, which was almost double the need. Thus, it was not surprising to find that when the Games opened, the rental market did not balloon and only 40 percent of house owners made their expected fortune.

Limited as the turnover of high rentals was, the housing list was multiplied by the Olympics. Agencies predicted that as the Olympics finished, the landlords would have no excuse to raise their prices.

Right after the Olympics was over, the prices of both hotels and houses dropped back to normal. On a house rental BBS, the postings of vacant rooms were at an overwhelming high.

A report from Lianjia Estate said landlords' benefits increased from 100 yuan to 200 yuan more per month than last year.

After effect

Editors: He Jianwei Wei Ying Designer: Zhao Yan

BEIJING TODAY

Learning from bygone Games

By Han Manman

After every Olympics, big challenges are left for the host country. It not only needs to think about how to utilize the empty venues, but also how to handle a possible post-Olympic economic slump.

Athens, Sydney and Atlanta faced the same problems after their Games. How they handled the situation and other post-Olympic experiences could teach China a lot.



General view of Stadium Australia, Sydney.

CFP Photos



Coca-Cola spent US \$145 million sponsoring and advertising at Athens.

Greece, vaulting post-Olympic hurdles

By Han Manman

After the Athens Olympics, Slapties said Greece would end up with a post-Olympic hole in its pocket. But now, Greece can proudly say it has leapt over the hurdle and is reaping the benefits.

No wasted venues

"Our venues utilization has reached 90 percent," Sofoklis Psilianos, head of the General Secretariat for the Olympic Utilization, said.

"We cut the Athens press center into two sections. One became the Olympic museum and the other a large shopping mall," Psilianos said.

He said, the government also assigned the weightlifting hall to a local university.

"But the symbol stadium, including the Olympic main stadium, remains to be used for cultural and sports events," Psilianos said.

Money not the main matter

According to the figure provided by the office, the Greek government needed to pay an annual €25 million for Olympic venue maintenance. That cost was cut down to €15 million this year as more venues were rented out. Psilianos did not say exactly how much government input was involved but did guarantee the cost will be returned within 10 years.

When talking about the input and the rate of return from the Olympics, Psilianos, also an economist, said, "It is not a pure economic issue." Value cannot be judged only by money, he said.

He said compared with the venue cost, many more government investments have been put into the infrastructure construction.

The Games delivered a 21st-century transport system (road, rail and air) and

telecommunications network, cleared the air of the worst pollution, cut unemployment and put Greece on the map and tourism jumped nearly 20 percent in the subsequent two years.

"Before staging the Athens Olympics, Greece was only a small country. After we held a successful and safe Olympics, the world witnessed our organizational, managerial and coordinating skills as well as our business ability."

Sofoklis said before the Olympics, the country received few investments. After the Games, there was a rapid increase and business opportunities for the country shot up. "The Olympics increased our country's confidence," Sofoklis said.

The Olympic spirit also affected thinking. Psilianos said after the Olympics, volunteerism idea not only developed strongly in big cities, but also spread out to the mountain areas and small islands. "This valuable Olympic spirit is something money cannot buy," Psilianos said.

Keep Olympic memories alive

"Don't use all the venues for business ventures. Believe me, some symbolic venues are quite valuable and need to be standpoint preserved forever," Psilianos said Beijing should follow Greece's example and seek to retain some of the venues' Olympic appeal.

"The Bird's Nest, for example, is a unique stadium. Many people will want to visit it in the future and it can become a new tourist attraction for Beijing," he said.

And the post Beijing Olympics should not be viewed solely from a financial point of view. "You can invest in other ways if you want a quick profit," he said. "Because of the size and financial strength of China, I believe it can sustain permanent installations throughout all of its territory."

Sydney, the good, the bad and the ugly

By Zhang Dongya

Many people still remember the scene eight years ago, when Juan Antonio Samaranch, the former president of the IOC, gave the Sydney Olympics the coveted title of "best Olympic Games ever" in the closing ceremony. The 2000 Sydney Summer Olympics was a big success for the world's southernmost continent, since it not only gained huge returns for the country, but also successfully introduced the country to the world.

According to reports from the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG), the cost of staging the Olympics for the New South Wales government was AU \$1.74 billion (US \$940 million), and an AU \$30 million (US \$16.2 million) return to the state government. It was considered unprecedented earnings in modern Olympic history.

Following the Olympic tradition, each host city has to learn from the experience of the preceding cities and introduce its own experience from the Games. Sydney

was the first to issue a full report on how it actually operated the Games. They sold The Sydney 2000 Post Games Report to IOC for US \$3.5 million. Sandy Hollway, former CEO of SOCOG, proudly said it became one of the country's industries to offer Olympic experience and knowledge.

Since the Olympic Games are restricted by districts, it usually has much more impact on the host city than the whole country. For example, the Olympics held in small countries like Japan and South Korea greatly promoted the entire economy, mostly because their economic scope was comparatively smaller.

However, Australia, with its vast expanse of land and scattered economic districts, has been less influenced by the investment within districts. Experts said the entire economy status in China influenced by the Beijing Olympic Games will mirror that of Australia.

Sydney has been plagued by the problems of infrequent utilization and high maintenance costs of the Olympic venues.

Atlanta becomes sports mecca

By Jackie Zhang

The 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games was a celebration for the centennial of the Olympic Games. It drew more attendees than any prior Olympic Games, created a US \$5 billion economic impact and exposed Atlanta to 70 percent of the world's population as a great place to do business.

Even now, the city is still being transformed by an Olympic legacy that changed the face of its downtown, strengthened its position as a global commerce hub and positioned it as a sports capital of the world.

The goal of Atlanta holding the 1996 Olympiad was to make the city a global sports center. They made the after-use plan for the Olympic venues even before the Games opened. The event was organized and held totally by non-governmental organizations. All the investment was collected from the private sector.

For competitions like cycling, archery and rowing, only temporary venues were built, since it would be difficult to find organizations to carry on the management and maintenance of these venues.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games signed a 30-year agreement with a local baseball club. The main Olympic venue was constructed by the committee, and then the management and

maintenance for the venue were passed on to the baseball club as the team's host field. The aquatic center was donated to Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT), where the venue was used for student activities and competitions among the universities. The facilities in the cycling center were dismantled and the venue was turned into a wild life protection zone. The stadium for beach volleyball was equipped with ordinary floors and was used for weddings and concerts.

The Olympic Games fulfilled the Organizing Committee's goal of making the city a global sports capital. Today, the city hosts more major sporting events, more often, than any other city in the world and is home to five professional sports teams and several collegiate athletic programs.

"The 1996 Olympic Games made Atlanta a household name around the world and kick-started major infrastructure investments," Sam A. Williams, president of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, said. "But we didn't let it stop there. Atlanta has never stopped leveraging its Olympic opportunity to revitalize downtown Atlanta, recruit companies from all over the world and host the biggest and best sporting events in the nation."

Medals or not, you are a winner

9

By Han Manman

The sacred Olympic fire fizzled slowly Sunday evening at the National Stadium after burning 16 full days and nights. Topping the list of memories are athletes Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt.

But their stories were not the only ones told in 2008. There are other athletes who never stood atop the podiums, who never dominated the front pages, but are winners in their own right for making it to the Olympics.

Cambodian runner, poor but powerful

Cambodia's handful of Olympians quietly departed from Beijing Tuesday with no medals around their necks. With no sponsors, little money and tattered shoes, the team, fielding two swimmers, a sprinter and a marathon runner, owes its presence at the Olympics to IOC regulations allowing some of the world's least-developed nations to compete without having to qualify.

Tattered shoes tell the tale

During last Saturday's interview, marathon runner Hem Bunting showed off his new shoes excitedly, which were a gift from Beijing Olympic village official David Song. He finally had new shoes to participate in Sunday's competition without being forced to wear his US \$10 running shoes, which helped him win two Southeast Asian Games medals last year.

"I don't dare to hope for much tomorrow because my competitors had a lot of training with good equipment, while we didn't even have a proper training facility," Bunting said. He was the country's only hope at the Beijing Olympics. "The competition results depend on how lucky I am, and I will try my best."

In the next day's competition, he crossed the finish line in 2 hours, 33 minutes, 32 seconds, 73 out of 76 runners.

Training under duress

Living in a fly-infested dormitory at the ramshackle national stadium where he trained, Bunting's conditions would make many other countries' athletes cringe.

He had only a simple wooden bed with a mosquito net nailed overhead, and he was surrounded by dozens of other similar beds crammed together with barely enough room to walk between them. This is where Cambodia's

elite athletes lived and trained.

As the stadium was always being used by soccer players, Bunting mostly trained on the busy, cracked streets of the impoverished nation's capital Phnom Penh.

"I've been doing this for four years. I do it because I love to run," Bunting said.

Just days before he came to Beijing the stadium officials asked him to move out. "The stadium could only provide us six month's accommodations and my time was up." Bunting lucked out when a running federation learned of his situation and provided him free lodging.

Bunting is one of nine children from a farming family in the remote province of Stung Treng, where a sports official Chay Kimsan spotted his talent at a provincial event and brought him to the capital and the national team.

Hope for local support

"I have big dreams and I want to be a running star," Bunting said with a shy smile.

His lofty dream is challenged by a hard life filled with no financial backing or understanding.

"Everything needs to be done with money. The athletes' life is better and the performance is better if we get lots of support and money. We don't have good trainers, we don't have a good training environment and we also don't have good sports standards," Nhan Sokvisal, administration for Cambodia delegation, said. To find a sponsor, Sokvisal wrote 100 letters to private companies but few replied.

"We don't have any Olympics medals. If we could get a medal, they would gladly sponsor us. They never stop and think that everything starts from zero," Sokvisal said.

Cambodia has never won an



Photo by Ma Sen

Hem Bunting practiced in the Olympic village for the next day's competition. He finally had new running shoes with the help of a Beijinger.

Olympic medal and its greatest sporting success came in 1970 when its athletes won two silvers and three bronzes at the Asian Games in Bangkok.

"A 20-year brutal civil war ensured there were no more medals after that," Sokvisal said.

But the delegation sees "hope" for the future.

"The government this time was very nice to us," Sokvisal said, adding, "Our king has come to Beijing to watch the athletes' performance. This is our first time to see him face to face," Sokvisal said. He said the king also gave US \$600 to each athlete. "This was the first time our government provided money for the national team."

In the shadow of war, Iraqi athletes persevere

The Iraqi delegation left Beijing Tuesday with many beautiful memories.

Due to government intervention in sports, only four athletes were eligible to make the trip to Beijing. But for the Iraqis, this never was about the number of athletes they could bring or the number of medals they could win. It was about the flag they could raise for the world to see.

It was about defying whatever danger was put before them like Dana Hussein who faced death threats. She joined the women's 100m sprinting event and failed to qualify after her first run.

Or two Iraqi rowers Haidar Nozad and Hussein Jebur, who wore old T-shirts in the competition and had many viewers glued to their TV screens. They trained on the domestic Tigris River, where

explosions happened often.

But in this Olympics, they were not alone. The Iraqis received star treatment everywhere they went. When they departed they said, "We leave with very good memories that will never fade from our minds."

Interview with Tiras Anwaya, head of the Iraqi delegation.

BT: What are your comments on the Iraqi team's performance? What is the domestic response?

Anwaya: I can't expect anymore, they had to stop training for four to five years because of the war. Being part of the Olympics is very important. Dana got the 56th spot among all the athletes in the 100m run. It was a good performance since she didn't get much training like her rivals. Our citizens also accepted their performances, as they understand it is not just ability that counts here.

BT: What are the athletes' future plans?

Anwaya: The rowers Haidar Nozad and Hamzah Hussein Jebur will participate in a championship event two months from now. They will be busy with training on their return to Iraq. And we are so happy to have found a sponsor from China. This Chinese sponsor even said it will sponsor us to join the 2012 London Olympics. My athletes all tell me they hope to participate in the London Games and I believe at that time, they will give a much better performance.

BT: In past years, more than 100 athletes have died in the war or been murdered. Are you worried about their personal safety when they return to Iraq?

Anwaya: At that time, Saddam Hussein and his son

Uday tortured athletes they believed were underachievers. Now, I'm worried not because they are athletes, but because they are Iraqis. All Iraqis face death threats. The athletes are part of the Iraqi population and face the same risks.

But this year, security has improved 85 percent. The risk of death has dwindled somewhat.

As for Dana, she is now popular in Iraq due to her trip to the Beijing Olympics. I don't think she will be in any more danger than any other citizen in our country.

BT: What is your opinion on the Iraqi government using political methods to intervene in sport issues?

Anwaya: Unfortunately, this happens in many countries, not only Iraq. It comes from a misunderstanding of sport. We will solve these problems, it is not very difficult.

Muslim pride

Samia Yusuf Omar headed back to Somalia last Sunday, returning to her small two-room house in Mogadishu shared by seven family members. Her father is buried there, the victim of a wayward artillery shell that struck their home and also killed Samia's aunt and uncle.

Every day, she gets up three hours before daybreak, runs up a hill to chop wood and then returns to cook for her family. Other runners practiced in the stadium, but she could only practice on the bumpy mountain road. She was often bullied and threatened by militia or locals who believe that Muslim women should not take part in sports.

The girl appeared in the Bird's Nest wearing her white headband and a baggy T-shirt hanging out. She clocked a mere 32 seconds – the slowest 200-meter time in the event. Thirty-two seconds that almost nobody saw, but that she carries home with her feeling joy and wonderment.

Last chance

The Marshall Islands and Tuvalu are two small countries in the Pacific which participated in the Olympics for the first time.

Also in the Pacific, Kiribati sent three athletes to compete at the Beijing Olympics. None of the three ranked high, but Kiribati cherished this great opportunity.

For Kiribati, a country of only 90,000 people, the Beijing Olympics may be its last.

As global warming has made the sea level rise, this small Pacific island nation is facing extinction, David Collivis, Kiribati Olympic delegation chief, said. Several parts of the Kiribati island have already disappeared and many of its citizens have chosen to emigrate.

Nauru's solo act

If anyone could carry the hopes of an entire nation, 21-year-old weightlifter Itte Detenamo from Nauru appeared well-suited for it.

Nauru is an island of eight square miles and a population of 13,770. Unemployment is rampant at 90 percent but spirits are high when it comes to watching the Olympics.

In the opening ceremony, Leo D. Keke, Nauru's team organizer, kept telling Detenamo "Hold the flag up, show the world we are here." They wanted to show the world that they were part of a really big honor even if they had only one Olympian.

Small heroes

Editor: Han Manman Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY

Beijing hands off to London

By Han Manman

Four years ago, the Olympic flag was handed over to Beijing. Four years later, the world now turns its eyes to London.

As the Olympic Games' ex-host and next host, what are Greece and Britain's impressions of the Beijing Olympics and the upcoming London Olympics?

Greece applauds Beijing

By Zheng Lu

"China has raised the level of the Olympic Games, it will be hard to transcend," Giannis Ioannidis, the deputy minister of Culture with responsibilities for sport of Greece, said.

He said the former Olympics were held in one of the most ancient European countries and this time, in its counterpart in Asia, the Olympics has shown the sights of ancient culture.

"Beijing has her beauty as does Athens," Ioannidis said when talking about the differences between the recent two Olympic Games. He said the Athens Olympics was smaller yet exquisite, and Beijing was on a grander scale. The similarity of the two Olympics lies in harmony, he said.

Ioannidis also shared his feelings about the environment in Beijing. "I did not experience much air pollution here. Beijing also has done well in creating a green Beijing and a green Olympics."

The deputy minister was impressed by the Chinese spectators for their generous applause for the other countries. He said he had watched two Olympic basketball games, one between China and Greece, and the other China and Brazil. Although China was beaten by both the two other countries, Ioannidis still saw the Chinese spectators still cheer for the two winners. "They have shown the real Olympic spirit, just enjoy the Games regardless of nationality," he said.

The Olympic Village excited Ioannidis as well. He visited the village and found the conditions and environment were "much better than many international five-star hotels." He reasoned that was part of the reason why many



Giannis Ioannidis

Photo by Zheng Lu

athletes played so well. "The well-equipped and comfortable living conditions helped the athletes feel at ease and allowed them to concentrate on their game," Ioannidis said.

In response to the stimulant scandal around the Greek athlete, Ioannidis said the related department was looking into the case. He said Greece would set up new rules to strictly prevent further cases. "The Olympics came originally from Greece. In ancient times, no athletes ever cheated. We would like to protect that spirit."

That was what he also recommended to London. "The most important thing is to hold a clean and green Olympic Games. I expect the IOC and London Olympics Committee to improve the regulations to eradicate stimulants."

London says tally-ho



Boris Johnson

Photo by Li Jing

By Li Jing

When London mayor Boris Johnson took possession of the Olympic flag at the closing ceremony of the 2008 Olympics, London was ready to hold a successful Olympic Games.

During the mayor's brief stay in Beijing, Think London - Road to London was an agenda listed on his schedule. This activity organized by Think London, the foreign direct investment agency for London, aims to promote the message that London is open for business and an ideal location for companies in China and elsewhere. The mayor is also working hard in "selling" his city, the next destination of the Olympic Games.

Johnson said Beijing's marvelous stadiums and high-tech wireless Internet access impressed him a lot. He extended his welcome to Chinese businesses to help construct the London Olympics.

"We have been dazzled, we have been impressed and we have been blown away," Johnson said when commenting on the Beijing Olympics. He said the fantastic works by Beijing set the bar very high for London. But he insisted the Brits did not have to be "intimidated" by Beijing's success. "We will do our best to match your fantastic works."

The mayor said the British government's Olympics budget has already ballooned to US \$17.26 billion - nearly 13 billion more than estimated in its optimistic initial bid. But the mayor is confident that he can persuade the citizens to support him. "The success of the Beijing Olympics will guarantee that Londoners support the 2012 London Olympics," he added.

Several numbers closely related to the London Games have been determined so far, including 70,000 volunteers, nine million tickets and 10 separate train lines, Xinhua reported.

Observers and well-wishers hope that the 2012 London Olympics will go as well as Boris Johnson says, "Without blowing huge sums of money we can do just as well."

Big winners in the Small World Cup event

By Han Manman

Not a medal winner in the Olympic Games? It does not matter. At the Olympic Village entertainment center, a 16-day competition called "Small World Cup" provides athletes with many extra chances to win a medal for their country.

Last Sunday was the last day of the Beijing Olympics. Before the closing ceremony, the Olympic Village held the "last competition" in the entertainment center's foosball event.

The competition adopted the "open double" rule, which means the participating teams could be comprised of two athletes from the same country or two from different countries.

After an hour of furious competition, US boxing coach Willy Price and track athlete Pedro Pessoa from Cape Verde won the last gold medal. Swimmer Francois Heers Branot and his teammate Yoris Grandjean from Belgium, won the silver. And Denmark's Bojacobcen and Chais Cheistensen won the bronze.

During the 16-day Beijing Olympics, the entertainment center held 16 competitions every day including foosball, billiards, shuffleboard and air hockey. The competitions attracted 30 countries, Song Wei, principal of the Olympic village entertainment center and chairman of the International Table Federation, said. "Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair also came to play," Song said.

"Olympic Games should not be just



Brazilian athletes prepare for "kick off" in the "Small World Cup".

Photo by Ma Sen

about competition, it is also a chance to make friends. And I made many friends during the Small World Cup," Kive Musoke said. He is the weightlifting champion from Uganda. He said he won silver in billiards several days

ago. "I began to play billiards when I was a child. Although I didn't win the gold, it's a counterbalance show and I was satisfied with my performance," Musoke said.

Ranked third on the Olympic medal

list, Russia in this event was at the top of the Small World Cup medal list with Egypt. Both competitors won two gold medals and one bronze. Brazil ranked second with one gold and three silvers, and Denmark came in third.

Olympic winners racking up cash

When the Olympics ended this weekend, all countries praised their successful athletes and gold medalists. Different countries have different rewards, be they cash, real estate or other bonuses.

No 1: Mexico – US \$767,960

Though Mexico did not release any information about its cash bonuses, the Mexican Administration of Sports and Entertaining mentioned that the reward goes as high as US \$767,960 for a gold, which is 31 times larger than its neighbor the US. Mexico offers the highest cash award of any country in the world for a gold medal winner. The country has put together US \$1,829,380 in total for the athletes who win any medals.

No 2: Singapore – US \$738,760

Singapore has been waiting for a gold medal for 48 years. The government offered a cash award of US \$738,760 this year.

No 3: Azerbaijan – US \$735,840

The country awards its gold medal winners US \$735,840.

No 4: India – US \$ 481,800

After Abhinav Bindra won a lot of cash rewards after winning the gold medal at the Beijing 2008 Olympics, the Punjab government, his home state, gifted him with Rupees 1 crore (US \$228,598,) while Haryana showered him with another Rupees 25 lakh (US \$57,150.) The Bihar government gave him Rupees 11 lakhs (US \$25,145) while Chattisgarh did their bit by awarding him Rupees 1 lakh (US \$2,285.)

Railway Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav declared that a special pass will be authorized in his name, which will enable him to travel free anywhere in India by any train, first class for life.

Even the Board of Cricket for Controversies in India jumped in. It was already supporting the shooter in his bids as part of its "support other sports program," for which it set out Rupees 50 crore. But as an individual award, the cricket board offered him Rupees 25 lakhs (US \$57,150.)

And if this was not enough, legendary Milkha Singh requested the athlete be awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian order in the country.

No 5: Cyprus – US \$442,380

The country awards its gold medal winners US \$442,380.

No 6: Philippines – US \$340,909

Xinhua reported on the first day of this month that Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo raised the Olympic incentive to US \$340,909 for any Filipino athlete who won a gold medal in Beijing.

According to the country's Incentives Act, the government was set to give a 5-million-peso (US \$109,577,) reward for an Olympic gold winner, and half that amount for a silver medalist and 1 million peso (US \$21,910,) for a bronze.

However, individuals, groups, and companies were promised a combined sum of 10.5 million pesos for a gold medal in the Beijing Games.

The Philippine Olympic Committee First Vice-President Monico Puenteveilla said the incentive promise of 15 million pesos was the "biggest ever" in Philippine history.

No 7: Malaysia – US \$313,900

The country awards its gold medal winners US \$313,900.

No 8: Thailand – US \$310,980

Thailand has a US \$998,640 award in total for the medal winners, but the country pays out the first half in cash, and the rest over a 20-year period. An award of US \$310,980 is given to each gold medal winner.

No 9: Belarus – US \$307,372

The country has an award of US \$307,372 for a gold medal winner.

No 10: The United Arab Emirates – US \$272,000



Gold medalist Maria del Rosario Espinoza of Mexico (second from left) for the Women's +67kg Taekwondo event.

Athletes from the United Arab Emirates who win a gold medal receive a US \$272,000 cash bonus.

No 11: Italy – US \$219,000

Italy prepared US \$3,358,000 in total for its medal winners and US \$219,000 for each gold medal winner.

No 12: Romania – US \$148,920

Romania will pay US \$595,680 in total for its athletes who win a medal and US \$148,920 for its gold medalist.

No 13: Russia – US \$147,460

Before the Beijing 2008 Olympics opened, AHN, allheadlinenews.com, reported in May that Leading Russian businessmen pledged US \$12 million to the bonus fund for the successful athletes at the Olympics.

Ten of Russia's tycoons, including Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich and Vagit Alekperov, owner of Lukoil, the second-largest oil producer in Russia, promised to donate US \$12 million to the Olympic Fund. The fund, which aims to support athletes as well as boost Russia's performance in the Olympics and in world championships, gave out bonuses to Russian medalists from the Summer Games in Beijing.

In the last two weeks before the Olympics on July 24, Russia tripled the prize-money for medal winners at the Beijing Olympics, offering US \$48,894 for athletes who brought home gold.

Bonuses for silver and bronze from the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) jumped to US \$29,143 and US \$19,428 respectively compared to US \$6,133 and US \$3,067 paid out at the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

Russia's Minister of Sports Vitaly Mutko called the previous bonuses "outdated" in view of the athletes' value to the country.

Athletes also share in US \$4,295 promised by Russia's richest men, including Chelsea soccer club owner Roman Abramovich, and other cash prizes from corporate sponsors such as energy giant Gazprom.

Free housing, cars and cash awarded by local authorities could up the value of a medal from Beijing to over US \$154,830.

No 14: Spain – US \$144,540

Spain awards its gold medal winners about US \$144,540 and US \$1,473,140

in total.

No 15: Hungary – US \$127,020

The country has an award of US \$127,020 for a gold medal winner.

No 16: Australia – US \$117,078

Australian athletes get US \$117,500 for gold medals.

No 17: France – US \$73,175

France awards its athletes US \$430,000 in total and US \$73,175 for gold medalists.

No 18: China – US \$51,100

China awards each gold medalist 350,000 yuan (US \$51,100.)

No 19: South Korea – US \$51,100

Korea gives US \$51,100 to each gold medal winner, and he or she can get a US \$1,022 pension every month until death.

No 20: Japan – US \$27,740

A bonus of US \$27,740 goes to a Japanese gold medalist.

No 21: The United States – US \$24,820

The US awards each of the gold medalists a bonus of US \$24,820 and the country has prepared in total of US \$1,741,780 for medal winners.

No 22: Canada – US \$20,000

CTV.ca News reported at the end of last year that Canadian athletes that reach the podium at any future Olympic Games would be financially compensated up to US \$20,000 per medal.

Silver medal winners will be receiving US \$15,000 per medal and bronze winners will earn US \$10,000.

"We've had a program of subsidizing athletes in the past but we've never recognized the medal wins with specific dollars," Canadian Olympic Committee president Michael Chambers told CTV Newsnet.

He said countries like the US, Australia, England, France and Spain already give their athletes money if they win at the Olympics.

The Canadian Olympic Committee says the athlete support and reward program is a way to compensate high-performance athletes for the financial burdens they often face while training for Olympic Games.

No 23: The United Kingdom – US \$9,181

British competitors were offered bonuses of up to £ 20,000, US \$36,736, an Alfa Romeo car and even color-

coded champagne as an extra incentive to win medals.

It is the first time that such rewards have been offered to members of Team GB at an Olympic Games. Among the disciplines to benefit are track and field, sailing and judo.

In athletics all British medal winners in Beijing will be given an Alfa Romeo of their choice after UK Athletics, the governing body, signed a sponsorship deal with the carmaker.

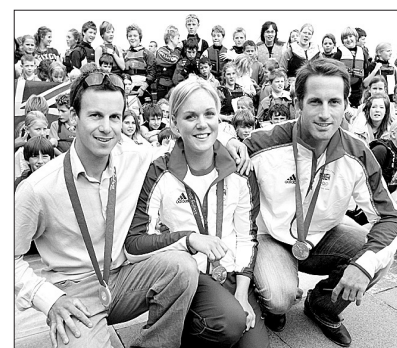
Gold, silver and bronze medal winners in track and field will also be given cash awards (£ 5,000, US \$9,181 for gold, £ 4,000, US \$7,347, for silver and £ 3,000, US \$5,510 for bronze) paid for by Norwich Union. A third sponsor will ensure that athletes will be able to toast their success by supplying magnums of gold, silver and pink champagne.

Bonuses are also being offered in judo to recognize the "commitment and self-sacrifice" of British competitors. Those picking up a gold medal will be awarded £ 20,000, US \$36,747. Silver medal winners get £ 10,000, US \$18,372 and bronze, £ 5,000, US \$9,181.

In sailing – the sport in which Ben Ainslie went for his third consecutive Olympic gold medal – those making the podium will collect bonuses of up to £ 10,000, US \$18,372 funded by sponsors.

Britain hoped to claim eighth place in the medal league table in Beijing, two places higher than in Athens in 2004.

(By Gan Tian / Wang Chuyang)



British Olympic sailing medallists, Nick Rogers, Pippa Wilson and Ben Ainslie.

CFP Photos

For many who will arrive over the next few months, the Olympics is not their only destination. They are curious to explore and to collect memorabilia. From this week through the end of September, *Beijing Today* will present a series of guides. The guides include current popular sites for food and shopping, and will lead visitors to sites of interest too new for the guidebooks. We hope you can feel the pulse of the city and dig deep into Beijing's daily life.



Outdoors

Walk: Confucius Temple and Imperial Academy

The Confucius Temple (Kong Miao) and the Imperial Academy are together in the same building complex which was built in 1306.

The Academy used to be a place for imperial exams selecting civil servants. The Confucius Temple on the left of the complex consists of four courtyards and houses and 198 stone tablets that bear the names of more than 50,000 scholars who passed the imperial exams in the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties.

Now more of a museum, things still get busy at the temple when Beijing students prepare to sit the university entrance exams and come here to ask the sage for a bit of help.

Where: meet in front of the temple, 13 Guozijian Jie, Dongcheng

When: August 30, 2-5 pm

Cost: 250 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(reservations are essential)

Tianjing Historical Architecture Tour

The tour will be guided by a curator from the Tianjin Modern History Museum who guides visitors through the old colonial districts and areas where the Western and classic Chinese villas are now used by municipal governments and organizations.

Where: meet in the square of Beijing Railway Station, 13A Maojiawan Hutong,

Dongcheng

When: August 30, 7:30 am - 6 pm

Cost: 500 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(reservations are essential)

Xuanwu Hutong and Courtyard Houses Pedit-cab Tour

The tour will take you to the more authentic alleys and courtyard houses, and the real life of Beijingers by visiting some local homes in the neighborhood for a chat with residents, checking out a small vegetable market, and visiting a kindergarten to meet the kids. The trip ends with strolling and shopping along the famous Liulichang Cultural Street.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of KFC restaurant (next to the Laoshe Teahouse, Qianmen Xi Dajie)

When: September 5, 2 pm - 4:30 pm

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(reservations are essential)

Horseback-Riding Adventure to Daxinganling Forest and Bayingcagang Grassland

In this trip, you will ride horses through the virgin forest, still teeming with wildlife into the Bayingcagang Grassland. On horseback, it takes about two hours to reach the grassland, where you will experience the real life of these nomadic people.

When: Fly to Haila'er on September 5 and fly back to Beijing on September 9

Cost: 8,900-10,600 yuan

Tel: 8621 6278

(reservations are essential)

Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: August 30, 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Black Cat Bone

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 30, 10 pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 8196 4820

Metal Never Dies

Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

When: September 5, 8 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 8448 3335

Spring and Autumn - Beijing Concert

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3

Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: September 6, 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Nightlife

It's Over

Obiwan celebrated the end of the Olympics with drink specials all night, free beer during certain time periods and discounts for those in the hospitality industry.

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyan, Xicheng

When: August 29, 10 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6617 3231

Drum Show

Where: Star Live, 79 Hepin Xi Lu, Dongcheng

When: August 31, 8 pm

Admission: 30-40 yuan

Tel: 5123 3866

Section 6

Three-time DMC China champ disc jockey Wordy will be pumping out a connoisseur's selection of hip hop and old-school.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3

Undying c



Umbrellas with smiley faces used in the Olympics opening ceremony

By Li Jing

Even though the Beijing Olympics ended this week, many things around the city remain to remind residents of the spectacular event. Olympic events are broadcast on a continuous loop on TV screens everywhere. Volunteers remain on duty in the blue cubes or on the road sides. Olympic flags and red lanterns hang along streets and roads.

The hustle and bustle of the exhibition One World, One Dream at the China Millennium Monument is testimony to that. As the Olympic Games progressed, new pieces were added to the exhibition regularly.

To date, the most recent pieces are the drums and costumes used in the performances of the Olympics opening ceremony.

The two drums in the exhibition hall are

the ones used in the massive 2,008-people "Drum Show." The drum is called *Fou* in Chinese and it was the ancient Chinese container for wine. In the Qin Dynasty, people beat the *Fou* to express a welcome to friends, especially distant ones.

Eight umbrellas with smiley faces are also on display. Pictured on the umbrellas which were paraded at the event are the happy faces of more than 1,000 children from around the world giving a very positive spin to the opening ceremony.

The exhibition includes an additional five parts: China's Century-Long Dreams Coming True, Seven Years of Preparation, Two Games, Equal Splendor, Time-Honored Chinese Sports and Modern Olympics, Grand Sports Event.



Fou used in the Olympics opening ceremony



Wheelchairs from the basketball competition



Balls

dream



Photos by Li Jing

In the section allotted to the Modern Olympics, Grand Sports Event, precious pieces from the Lausanne Olympic Museum are exhibited, telling the stories of Olympics from the first Games in Athens in 1896 to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The bicycles and table tennis rackets on show give a vivid picture of the evolution of sports equipment in Olympic Games.

Two Games and Equal Splendor spotlights the Paralympics which deserve great attention since they are approaching.

One World, One Dream

Where: China Millennium Monument, 9A Fuxinmen Lu, Haidian
When: until October 10
Admission: free
Tel: 5980 2222



s and blindfold used in the Paralympics

Exhibition

Social Images – Joint exhibition of Zhang Xiaotao and Li Yifan

Zhang Xiaotao is frequently exhibited as a painter while Li Yifan works as a documentary director. Though working through different mediums, both have been devoted to textual research and narration of Chinese modern reality. The exhibition presents the homogenous aspect of their art practice.

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until October 10, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6543 2086

Subtlety

In a group of commissioned works from nine leading contemporary artists, you will find a diverse range of ideas, thought processes, and sensibilities. The works ask the viewer to respond to their subtle nature and consider what distinguishes enduring art from temporal trends, the importance of the search and a desire to build on what has gone before.



New Age Gallery



China Blue Gallery



Platform China Contemporary Art Institute

Where: Platform China Contemporary Art Institute Main Space A & B, 319-1 East End Art Zone A, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang

When: Until October 12, daily except Monday 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 0091

Image Dynamics

Where: 798photogallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until September 26, daily 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 1784, 6437 5284

Latitude and Longitude ±0.000 – Wu Debin Solo Exhibition

Where: 9 Cube Art Museum, Brewery International Art Garden, Beihuqu Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until September 23, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5202 3969

Declaration of the Only Child

Where: New Age Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until August 31, daily except

Monday 11:30 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9282

Snowscapes and Scenery – Zhang Jian Solo Exhibition

Where: China Blue Gallery, 3/F, Building 7, Yigou Space, 16 A Baiziwan, Chaoyang

When: Until September 25, daily 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8774 6332

Assembling under the Five Rings

Where: 4/f, the Legend, 8 Anli Lu, Chaoyang

When: until September 30, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5128 2297

Qin Gallery's contemporary oil painting exhibition

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huawei 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang

When: Until August 31, daily except Monday 9:30 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8779 0461, 8779 0458

Movie

Grand Combat (Le Grand Combat)

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 29, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

The Chimera of Heroes (La Quimera de los Heroes)

Where: Beijing Institue Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 30, 7 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 5879 9666

Camaron

Where: Beijing Institue Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

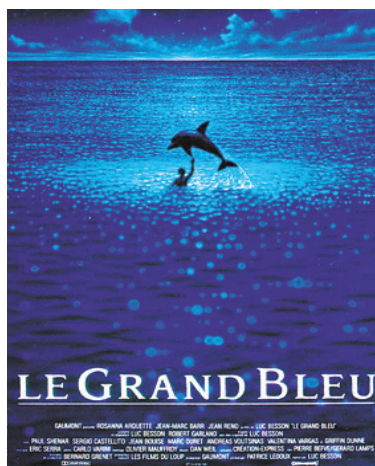
When: September 4, 7 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 5879 9666

Les Yeux Dans Les Bleus

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F,



Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 30, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

The Big Blue

Where: Yufeng Bookstore, 69 Chengfulu, Haidian

When: August 30-31, 7:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6270 1928

Wheel of Time

Where: Lanyang Bookstore, 3 Shuimo Xinqu, Haidian

When: September 2, 7:30 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6265 5069

Gladiator

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyan, Xicheng

When: September 3, 9 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6617 3231

Run China & Search for Happiness

Where: Beijing Channel Zero Media, 7G Building 4 Meilin Garden, 33 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian

When: September 4, 7 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 8855 0622

Folk Activities

Hands-on: Painting on Chinese Paper Fan

Paper fans are generally hand crafted from bamboo, with decorations of calligraphy or famous paintings on the paper or silk fabric.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 3, 10-11:30 am

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Hand-pulled noodles and dumplings

This class gives you the chance to make longevity noodles, which are different from the Shaanxi noodles and are made for birthdays, especially for the elderly. You will also have the chance to make dumplings.



Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 31, 10:30 am – noon

Cost: 200 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Ink and wash painting class

Chinese painting is one of the oldest continuous artistic traditions in the world. Ink and wash painting is an East Asian type of brush painting. It is also

known as wash painting.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 1, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Calligraphy

The calligraphy course is set up for non mandarin-speaking students and is conducted in English. It covers everything from the meaning and evolution of the characters and culture to the history and music of the period.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 2, 10-11:30 am

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Continued on page 14 ...

... continued from page 13

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City pulse

2008

book fair

echoes the Olympic Games

By Li Jing

The Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF) is considered by many as one of the top four International Book Fairs in the world with China becoming one of the fastest growing markets for new books. The show itself saw an attendance of over 200,000 people in 2007. 2008 looks even larger.

With the Beijing Olympics just ending, the annual BIBF will kick off next Monday. To ease the pressure on the hotels and other services during the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games, the 2008 BIBF will be moved to Tianjin and will be held at the Tianjin International Exhibition Center from September 1 to 4. It will return to Beijing in 2009.

Early in the 2007 BIBF, sports medicine and physical education books were very popular. For this year, Greece has been invited as the Country of Honor for BIBF this year, considering it is the cradle of the modern Olympics.

In the Greek Pavilion, 25 Greek publishing houses will display 11 titles including those related to ancient Greece and the Olympic Games. During the fair, a variety of cultural activities and exchanges will be held. Eight Greek authors will be present in 12 cultural events and another two Noble Literature Prize winners will

deliver lectures.

The organizers advocate a green book fair at this year's BIBF, which echoes the Green Olympics. All the booths at the fair are decorated with environmentally-friendly materials. A high-tech green lighting system has been used to save energy and recycling bags are the only plastic bags allowed to be taken into the fair.

Some 1,500 overseas publishing houses and international organizations from more than 50 countries and regions are invited. The fair continues to expand and improve the special showcases of periodicals, children's books as well as having a dedicated Rights Center. Exhibition areas for printing, cultural products and new technology will be highlighted.

Beijing-Tianjin intercity trains are available from 6:15 am to 10:10 pm, setting out every 30 minutes. It takes 30 minutes to travel from Beijing to Tianjin. Regular buses with the BIBF logo shuttle between Tianjin Railway Station and Tianjin International Exhibition Center.

Beijing International Book Fair

Where: Tianjin International Exhibition Center, 32 Youyi Lu, Xihe District, Tianjin

When: September 1-4

Website: bibf.net

Book talk

China's Economic Policy – Problem and Prospect

The talk will be delivered by Feng Xingyuan, a researcher and professor of Rural Development Researchs Institute of China Academy of Social Science. The talk will be conducted in Chinese with English interpretation.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 3, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Kid's club

Kid's books are selected and read by The Bookworm's own teacher-storytellers to promote a love of reading outside the classroom.

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 31, 11 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6586 9507

Stage

Concert

"2008 Gateway to Music"

Closing Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 31, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

European Union Youth

Orchestra China Tour

Who: conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 29-30, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-800 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

China Film Symphony

Orchestra Concert

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Givin' It Up Live Tour China

2008

Who: George Benson and Al Jarreau

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: September 4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 380-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6835 4455

China Broadcasting Chinese

Orchestra Concert

Who: China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 5, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Concert of St. Florian Boys

Choir

Who: St. Florian Boys Choir

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: September 12-13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-1,000 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Mid-Autumn Concert of Piano

and Violin Classics

Who: Sheng Zhongguo and Seta Hiroko

Where: Zhongshan Music

Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: September 12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-800 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

The Romeros Guitar Quartet

Concert

Who: Romeros Guitar Quartet

Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 11, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Japanese Folk Rock Musician

Kina Shoukichi Beijing Concert

Who: Kina Shoukichi

Where: Haidian Theater, 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian

When: September 6, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-380 yuan

Tel: 6254 6839

Dance

My Dream

Who: China Disabled People's Performing Arts Troupe

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: September 8-14,

Admission: 80-980 yuan

Tel: 6501 1854

My Venus, Sea Breeze

Embraces you

Who: China Oriental Song and Dance Ensemble

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: September 4-5,

7:30 pm

Admission: 100-1,000 yuan

Tel: 6501 1854

Opera

New version of Puccini's Opera

Turnandot

Who: directed by Chen Xinyi

Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 29-September 2, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Large-Scale Multimedia

Chinese Symphonic Picture

"Riverside Scene

at Qingming Festival"

Who: China Symphony Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 10, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)

Sports craze continues

By Gan Tian

Although the Olympics ended this week, the sports craze refuses to die. *Beijing Today* suggests the best places for all

things sportive. No matter whether the reader is a cyclist, a tennis player or an avid swimmer, the city is sure to have top stores for gear.

Bonding with nature takes preparation



Photo by Milo Lee

By Milo Lee

As people's needs grow closer to nature, outdoor activities have become a preferable way to approach the birds and the bees. Mountain climbing, trekking, canoeing, kayaking, rafting and spelunking have attracted many fans in China.

More and more people want to explore nature, but few carefully select the proper outdoor gear. In this issue, *Beijing Today* offers a few tips.

Outdoor activities can open the door to potential injuries. Many of these sports require preparation, strong willpower and physical strength. But with the proper equipment, one can reduce the possibility of injury. Sanfo Outdoor Equipment is one of China's top outdoor gear retailers. Its founder Zhang Heng expanded it into a national distributorship and has opened many stores in Beijing. One is the Olympic Village Store.

Located on the east side of the Olympic Village, this store has 5,000 kinds of outdoor gear. Special backpacks are most essential for carrying one's belongings. Finding a suitable backpack requires taking into account one's height, strength and what kind of outdoor activities he wants to do. Sanfo offers various styles of backpacks, many of which are imported from abroad and are of good quality. After selecting the right bag, all that is left to do is fill it. The contents only depend on what kind of outdoor activities you are interested in. The other key gear is a good pair of shoes. Make sure they are comfortable, durable and lightweight. Sanfo offers a great variety of shoes made for outdoor sport.

Besides selling outdoor equipment, Sanfo is also a platform for outdoor activity lovers. Every week, it organizes groups to go mountain climbing and hiking. If you enjoy exploring nature and want to meet new friends, you can contact the Sanfo Outdoor Club and sign on for a great adventure

Sanfo Outdoor Equipment

Where: F1, 3 Jiutai 2000 building, Anli Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am - 8:30 pm
Tel: 8480 4779, 8480 4946

Photos by Venus Lee



Adidas Sanlitun, the biggest and the best

By Venus Lee

The Adidas Brand Center in the Village in Sanlitun is the company's largest flagship store in the world. Erich Stam Minger, global brand president and CEO, said, China is one of the brand's most important markets. The opening in Beijing is another important milestone for Adidas to consolidate its position in the market.

This giant sportswear mall brings together the brand's concept lines under one roof. Whether you want shoes, kids clothing, accessories and apparel or lines such as Y-3 or Adidas by Stella McCartney, it's now all available here. What's more, the outlet is debuting a series of interactive experience areas for the first time in China or even in the world. These areas include the Olympic products issue area, the Mi Coach core skills, Mi Adidas and Mi originals classic shoes DIY and the Jersey Hot Stamping areas. A casual dining area and children's interactive area are available, too.

On the first floor, consumers are met with an impressive range of footwear. Stepping into the products issue area, also known as the Olympic special area now, all the high-tech shoe products designed especially for the athletes of the 2008 Beijing Olympics are displayed through interactive devices where you can appreciate and learn the details of the products in close quarters.

The Mi Coach Core Skills area is one of the highlight spots where customers can utilize innovative technologies that are normally only available in professional-level sports facilities to personalize and enhance sports training, performance and style. The consumer can analyze their current level of performance and receive recommendations, tips and training techniques that will help them to further develop their core skills. Using Mi Coach Core Skills technology, visitors will be guided by specially-trained staff through a series of strength, speed, and balance tests. The Mi Coach Core Skills technology, similar to that used by professional athletes, will analyze the test results and assess the



users' core skill levels and provide them with specially tailored recommendations. Participants will receive a personalized report which enables them to benchmark themselves against other athletes and the document also contains suggestions.

Based on the unique sales concept, consumers are allowed to design their own custom-made (and custom-sized) Adidas shoes, if none of the shoes in the store impress them. In the Mi Adidas and Mi originals classic shoes DIY area, customers can design their own personalized sports shoes through the customization tools that designate color scheme, fabrics, sizes, applied technology. In the Jersey Hot Stamping area, there is a T-shirt printing terminal where you can have your names and numbers printed on the back of a shirt in 20 minutes.

On the second floor, there is a real bonanza of Olympic-branded Adidas shirts and more menswear options along the casual and performance lines. The kids clothing and kids interactive area is also located on the second floor with an extensive range of products for women displayed on the third floor. The Stella McCartney collection, a range of women's sports apparel, footwear and accessories created specially for Adidas by the renowned British designer is available here as well. The stylish Y-3 boutique is also located on the third floor and has some superb gold boots on exhibition.

The fourth floor contains the Urban area which is a creative space of brand new concepts that show the integration of various elements from main brands, art, music and culture. And last, but certainly not least, there is a half-court basketball court located on the rooftop, which not only affords the opportunity to show off your skills, but also features a stunning view of the Village development itself.

The Adidas Brand Center

Where: 11 The Village in Sanlitun, 19 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Continued on page 16...



... continued from page 15



Photo by Zheng Lu

NBA stores are a Disneyland for basketball fans

By Zhang Dongya

The NBA has thrived in the land of 1.3 billion for years and is looking to cash in by creating its own NBA China division, which is valued at US \$2.5 billion. The company has opened two stores in Beijing. Its first outside of the US, which boast huge retail space, emblazoned with posters of the most popular NBA players.

The stores offer an array of 400 products including game jerseys the China Men's National Team and US Men's Senior National Team wore during the Beijing Olympics, limited edition player-autographed jerseys, basketball apparel and shoes for kids and adults.

The store not only has tons of gear focusing on every team, but also mini-basketball games and other basketball-related products from which to choose. The outlets feature a wall of famous basketball stars' handprints which is always a curiosity for fans.

Though there are many jerseys from which to choose, the popular Team America jerseys and Team China jerseys are not currently available. Leave you phone number and the store will contact you as soon as the jerseys are in stock.

The two Beijing stores opened in July are considered to be smaller versions of the flagship shop in New York. The NBA is planning to set up 500 to 1,000 stores in China within the next five years to meet the increasing demands of Chinese basketball fans.

NBA store The Place branch

Where: 113-114, F1, North Building, The Place, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6587 1585

NBA store Wangfujing branch

Where: F5, Shengdao Sports City, New Dongan, 138 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6522 7028



Photo by Zhao Weijun

Decathlon, a sports supermarket

By Zheng Lu

Real sports fans are those who have an extensive interest in many sports and are wannabe experts in gear. To meet the demands of equipment collectors is not an easy thing, since most sporting shops concentrate on only the essentials.

Decathlon is a supermarket of sporting equipment and suits many sports fans to a tee.

From kite accessories to gear for equestrians, you can find almost every obscure little sporting good here.

Bicycles are one of the mainstays of Decathlon and have been divided into nine different types including mountain bikes, road bikes, country bikes, and bicycles for teens and children. Prices range from less than 500 yuan to 10,000 yuan.

It is not unusual to see an entire family strolling into the store as they would in any Walmart. Parents peruse the racks leisurely and it is a virtual playground for the kids. Girls are often drawn to the beautiful pink ballet suits while boys take interest in the various footballs. One of the attractive features is that there are many dressing rooms for both the adults and children to try on any of the products before buying.

Price is another preponderance of Decathlon. Generally, the price of the goods is 30 percent cheaper than its competitors. A colorful T-shirt and a fashionable sporting bag can be had 100 yuan.

Recently, outfits customary of Asian sports have been added to the racks. There is an area set aside for martial arts where you can find clothes and equipment used in kung fu, taekwondo, karate, judo and aikido.

Yizhuang store

Where: 3 Xi Wenhua Yuan Lu, Economic-Technological Development Area (Next to Yizhuang Bridge), Chaoyang District

Open: Sunday to Thursday: 9 am - 9 pm, Friday and Saturday: 9 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6782 6100

Dajiaoting store

Where: 195 Zhongsihuan Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: Sunday to Thursday: 9 am - 9 pm, Friday and Saturday: 9 am - 10 pm

Tel: 8777 8788

Tennis is tops at Donglijiyin

By Wang Yu

It was 2004 when Li Ting and Sun Tiantian won the tennis gold medal in the women's doubles in Athens. Since then, tennis has become more and more popular. Now one can easily find a tennis court in his community or somewhere nearby. The only problem is having to book the court three days advance.

Tennis equipment, such as racquets, strings, shoes and apparel is necessary for dedicated fans who wish to better their game. For rookies, good equipment like high-quality racquets appropriate for beginners will help them improve their skills and avoid injury.

Donglijiyin, translated as "the gene of power" in English, is the name of a tennis shop founded by three graduates of Tsinghua University in 2003. It took them five years to become one of the most reputable dealers in the city and have three branches separately at Dongzhimen, Zhongguancun and Jingshiyuan.

Choose tennis gear from almost all the mainstream brands such as Wilson, Prince, Babolat, Dunlop, Head Volkl and Yonex. The prices are about 60 percent cheaper than elsewhere. "When we started the shop, tennis equipment was more expensive in China than abroad though almost all of the racquets were manufactured here," Luo Lan, manager of the Dongzhimen branch, said. "We thought the prices should be cheaper and began to reduce them. We hoped to make it possible for more people to play tennis."

Racquets from Donglijiyin usually have one-year warranty offered by the manufacturer. Wrist bands, grips, bags and other accessories are also available in the shop.

The Dongzhimen branch also offers a stringing service with a high-grade Babolat stringing machine. "When we first imported this machine, many tennis fans wanted their racquets restrung on it because of the machine's veracity. At that time, they had to book the service in advance but now, you can come anytime even though it's still a little busy on weekends," Luo Lan said.

Dongli Jiyin

Where: 8 building 1, Dongzhimennei Street, Dongcheng district

Open: 9 am - 8 pm

Tel: 8406 4939

Web site: dono.cn



Photo by Wang Yu

Hunting for Lake

cuisine in town

By Gan Tian

Many of China's most popular dishes come from Hunan Province. Its chefs are known for their skill with a knife and for the delicious taste and delightful presentation of each dish.

The region's cuisine, famed for its sourness and spice, uses many seasonings and a variety of techniques. Beijing Today has suggestions on how to enjoy its traditional dishes without leaving the capital.



2.



1.



3.

1. Xianglin Baozhongbao, ox and chicken cooked in stone pot
2. Nangjia Jijiegu, crispy chicken
3. Wapian Niuwa, bullfrogs in a vessel
4. Changde Shuiyubo, turtle fried in pot

4.

Origins of a unique flavor

By Gan Tian

Hunan food is also known as Xiang cuisine, named for the region's river. It is considered one of the country's main cooking styles. Its dishes come from all over the province, with the most famous including the Xiang River, Dongting Lake and the Western Hunan Mountains. Cooking styles vary from frying, stewing and broiling to steaming and smoking, but the dishes all have one thing in common: Hunanese cuisine – like the province's inhabitants – is fiery.

The province has long been referred to as the "country of fish and rice," and these remain its staples. Rice steamed in bamboo is common. Other popular food includes bean curd bread rolls, dumplings and savory buns. Hunan is rich in lotus plants, and the flower's seed pods are considered a "cool food" in summer.

Landlocked Hunan's pepper-rich cuisine is similar to that of Sichuan Province. Chili, garlic and "strange sauce" enliven many dishes. Chairman Mao once claimed the more peppers one eats the more revolutionary one gets. It was meant as a joke, but reflects the Chinese belief that diet makes the man.

Famous dishes include spicy young chicken, fried fish slices, steamed soft-

shell turtle, steamed cured meat, Huofang whitebait, Dongting fat fish, Jishou sour meat, oily and spicy tender bamboo shoots and Chinese chestnuts with cabbage hearts.

Regional snacks include Huogongdian fried, fermented bean curd, sisters' glutinous rice balls, Xiangtan roll, Hengyang Pailou Tangyuan, stuffed balls made of glutinous rice flour served in soup, shrimp cakes or rice tea.

Appetizing Hunan dishes

By Venus Lee

Top Hunan gourmet, called Xianglin Tianxia in Chinese, is one of the most representative restaurants of Hunan spice in the city. Its most popular dishes are Wapianniuwa, Nongjiacijiegu, Duojiangyutou, Suanlalu-jing and Xianglin Baozhongbao.

For diners after more than good flavor and a satisfying meal, the nutritional content of Xianglin tianxia's top dishes is well balanced. Changdeshuiyubo, made from turtle, is high in amino acids and vitamin A and E. Jitangsanzibo, made with chicken and bamboo shoots from Mount Dawei, is a complete green food and good for blood pressure. Yizhangqiankun is made from camel hooves, which are high in protein and low in fat.

It serves several health soups, and the dim sum is popular with many customers.

Diners can enjoy a great view of the busy street through the windows. Its balconies are named for celebrities and stories from Hunan. The outer walls of the balconies are engraved with famous poems, and the rooms are decorated with genuine antiques.

Xianglin Tianxia is nice place to take guests for a cultural tour, and to enjoy delicious food, legends, poems and other cultural curiosities.

Xianglin Tianxia

Where: 168 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Haidian District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8857 6666



Photos provided by
Xianglin Tianxia

Continued on page 18 ...

...continued from page 17

An authentic, spicy love affair

By Milo Lee

Xixiang Ji, a much-hyped Hunan restaurant that borrowed its name from a play, has quite a reputation among the capital's Hunan natives.

Hunanese already love their food for its spice and flavor, but many outsiders are discovering its culinary traditions as well. Xixiang Ji has mastered them all.

With its close proximity to Line 5 of the subway, the street Xixiang Ji is easy to find. However, finding the actual restaurant can prove more challenging. There are many restaurants lining the street, and if you are not careful you may walk into a totally different one.

Diners raved about Xixiang Ji's quiet environment and soothing ambience, and most importantly, its food. The restaurant, decorated in purple, has a mysterious atmosphere created by beaded curtains and beautiful chandeliers. It is like a meditation room where you can leave all your troubles behind, but with tables full of delicious food.

One of the many authentic dishes served is Duojiang Yutou, fish heads covered in chopped hot peppers. With small pieces of salted hot peppers sprinkled on fish heads – half red, half green – it looks as good as it tastes. Another choice is Jiangmen Huiyu, sauce-braised fish. The fish is very soft and the smell of its spicy sauce is very strong.

Xixiang Ji is also the name of a play about a love story, only in this case Xixiang means western Hunan. The Xixiang in the play means the west side of a house. The owner used the play on tones to create a poetic name. Many couples choose this restaurant as a dating spot. Its romantic lighting makes for a perfect place to pop the question.

Xixiang Ji

Where: 1 Xiaohuangzhuang Qian Jie, Hepingli Xi Jie, Chaoyang (south of Hepingxiqiao station of Subway Line 5)
Open: 10 am – 2 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm
Tel: 8428 5617

Photos by Milo Lee



Spicy fish head

Home of spicy fish heads

By Jin Zhu

Like the pepper-filled dishes of Sichuan, Hunan cuisine is characterized by thick and pungent flavor. However, chili, peppers, garlic and the secret "strange-flavor" sauce play a greater role than they do in the cuisine of its western neighbor.

Xiangxiwangshi is one of the most famous authentic Hunan restaurants in the capital. "Steamed fish head with diced red peppers" is its signature dish. This staple of Hunan chefs is a frequent order for its flavor and taste. The fish is usually served on a big plate that takes up most of the table. "It tastes less peppery than it looks," Liu Xianyun, a customer from Hunan, said. Liu recommends adding noodles or rice to the soup after finishing the fish.

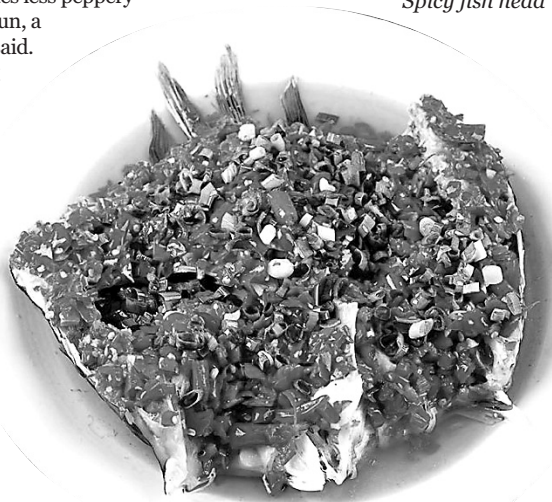
Peppery and hot chicken, stir-fried tripe cuts, lotus seed with rock candy, steamed pickled meat and hot and spicy frog leg are Xiangxiwangshi's other most-served dishes.

Like its name

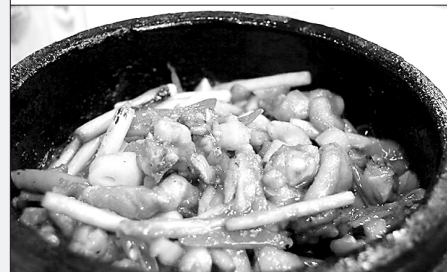
implies, the restaurant has a romantic atmosphere. The dining hall has a high roof and is sectioned off by red curtains. Each room is named after and decorated in the theme of a Hunan city, such as Guzhang, Fenghuang, and Huayuan.

Xiangxi Wangshi

Where: 3 Huixin Li, Chaoyang (behind Ziguang Mansion)
Open: 9 am – 12 pm
Tel: 6481 5919



Spicy fish head



Bullfrogs in stone a pot



Fried green bean

Jixiangniao serves pure Hunan style

By Zhang Dongya

Hidden in the trees of a courtyard, Jixiangniao is crowded with diners drawn in by its reputation. When the branch opened in 2002, Jixiangniao was already known for serving the most authentic Hunan cuisine in the town.

It strictly follows Hunan traditions in all preparation to preserve flavor, and all ingredients are brought in from the province – including the chefs who put it all together. Hunan people choose to enjoy their hometown's food here partly because of the sense of home they feel when they hear the wait staff's thick accents.

Unlike other restaurants which have adapted traditional flavor to local taste, Jixiangniao keeps its pure Hunan style: salty, spicy and strong. It features a series of *ganguo*, chili pots, and *shiguo*, stone pots, alongside popular stir-fried Hunan dishes.

You can also enjoy some traditional Hunan Xiaochi here, such as Changsha Shaomai, Baozi with soup and chili sauce and Hunan Zhengfen. Stewed turtle in a stone pot, fish head in chili and sour sauce and braised burro treasures are recommended by management.

Except for box seating on the second floor, seats are very close together with tables running down the corridors. Make reservations in advance to ensure a good spot. Some people ask for outdoor seats in the courtyard to enjoy the summer weather.

With the extensive menu and low prices, Jixiangniao makes it easy to enjoy a full Hunan meal on a limited budget.

Jixiangniao Chaowai Branch

Where: 103 Jixiang Li, Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang
Open: 11 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6552 2856

Jixiangniao Zuojiazhuang Branch

Where: 5 Zuojiazhuang Xi Jie, Chaoyang
Open: 11 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6468 0808

Jixiangniao Xueyuan Lu Branch

Where: 2F Hongyu Building, 7 Xueyuan Lu, Haidian
Open: 11 am – 10 pm
Tel: 8230 6698



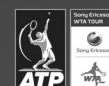
An inside view at Xixiang Ji

Where to eat

Yuelu Shanyu Gongti Branch
Where: Building 1, Jiqingli, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10:30 am – 2 pm, 4:30 pm – 10 pm
Tel: 6551 0806
Cuiqing Jiujiu
Where: A1, Cuiwei Dong Li, Haidian District
Open: 10:30 am – 2 pm, 4:30 pm – 10 pm
Tel: 6825 2634

Shangxia Yapian Yutouguan
Where: F2, Huakong Plaza, Building 3, Court 1, 6 Shangdi Dong Lu, Haidian District
Open: 10:30 am – 2 pm, 4:30 pm – 10 pm
Tel: 5885 1951
Changxianghui Private Dishes
Where: A2, Dashiqiao Hutong, Jiugulou Dajie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10:30 am – 2 pm, 4:30 pm – 10 pm

Tel: 6405 4620
Fenghuang Xiangyan
Where: 12 Meishuguan Houjie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10:30 am – 2 pm, 4:30 pm – 10 pm
Tel: 6406 0349
Xiangxiwangshi
Where: 3 Huixinli, Chaoyang (behind Ziguang Mansion)
Open: 9 am – 12 pm
Tel: 6481 5919 (By Gan Tian)



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BEIJING TODAY

Finding inner peace in the capital's temples

By He Jianwei

High buildings, shopping malls and busy traffic give the capital a modern and international face. But ancient buildings still dot its landscape. Several dynasties have left many ancient relics in Beijing, and most of the ones still standing are temples.

Beijing Today selected six temples in and out of the downtown where visitors can enjoy a serene look back at China's history.

Big Bell Temple

Museum for ancient bells

The Big Bell Temple (Dazhong Temple) is situated on Beisanhuan Xi Lu east of Haidian Road.

When the temple was first built in 1733, it was called the Temple of Righteous Awakening. In 1743, during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1711-1799), a giant bell was transferred from the Temple of Longevity (Wanshou Temple) to this temple. Since then, its common name has been the Big Bell Temple.

The temple compound contains three rows of halls, one behind the other. In the courtyard in front of the first big hall is an ancient cypress with an elm branch grafted onto its trunk.

The famous bell hangs in the Bell Tower at the rear of the compound. The tower is 17 meters high, with a square base, a circular upper structure and windows on four sides. It is said that Yao Guangxiao cast the bronze bell during Yongle's reign (1403-1424) during Ming Dynasty. The nearly 7-meter-high bell weighs about 47 tons.

Getting there: Bus numbers 300, 302, 367 and 718

Admission: 10 yuan

Open: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Tel: 6255 0819, 6255 0843



CFP Photos

Jietai Temple

Pagodas and pine trees

Jietai Temple, is located at Ma'anshan in the Western Hills. It was built in 622 AD during the Tang Dynasty and was known as the Wisdom Accumulation Temple.

In Liao Dynasty, a monk named Fajun had an altar built for the ordination of novices into the priesthood. It was renovated and renamed the Longevity Temple under Ming. The temple is commonly known as Jietai, or the place for selecting Buddhas. Most of the present buildings were reconstructed during Qing Dynasty.

The Mahavira Hall, the main hall in the Temple, originally contained 10 carved Ming sandalwood chairs. Outside the hall there are two steles, one erected in the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234) and the other in Liao.

South of the altar is the pagoda courtyard, in which stand two pagodas built in the Liao and Yuan dynasties. Not far from the courtyard is the Hall of the Brilliant Kings with a stone balustrade enclosing three stone pillars. They are inscribed with Buddhist sutras and images. Two were erected in Liao Dynasty and the other dates

from Yuan.

The temple is noted for its ancient pine trees, which date back to the Liao and Jin dynasties and continue to grow. One of the finest examples is the Jiulong Pine Tree, or Nine-Dragon Pine, found inside the temple and said to be more than 1,300 years old.

Getting there: Take bus You 7 from Qianmen, 335 from Fuchengmen or 931 from Pingguoyuan

Admission: 35 yuan

Open: 8 am - 5 pm

Tel: 6980 6611



Fayuan Temple

Relic center for Buddhism

Fayuan Temple in southwest Beijing is one of the city's most renowned Buddhist temples. *Beijing Fayuan Temple* (294pp, China Friendship Publishing, 18 yuan), written by Taiwanese writer Li Ao, was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2000. Its nomination bolstered the temple's international image.

Fayuan Temple was built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) at the south of Jiaozi Alley outside Xuanwumen. It is not only the oldest Buddhist temple in Beijing but also a location for both the China Buddhism Institution and China Buddhism Library and Relic Center.

In 645 AD, Emperor Taizong of Tang Dynasty fought a war of conquest against a tribe in Northeast China. Many soldiers died during their retreat to Beijing because of cold and hunger. The emperor



ordered the construction of the temple to commemorate the dead soldiers.

Over the last thousand years, the temple has been destroyed by warfare, fire and earthquakes. It has been rebuilt many times during several dynas-

ties, and most of its surviving buildings date back to Qing Dynasty.

The Heavenly King Hall is the main architecture. Inside the temple, Budai Monk is worshiped with four Heavenly Kings on each side.

In the past, the temple was famed for its lilac gardens and was known as the Sea of Fragrant Snow. Each year, when the trees came into bloom, the monks would hold vegetarian banquets attended by the celebrities of their day.

Pines from the Tang Dynasty are found in the front courtyard, and cypresses from Song Dynasty (960-1279) stand before the drum and bell towers. A maidenhair tree, reportedly several hundred years old, grows beside the Sutra Tower.

Getting there: Buses 6, 50, 53 and 109

Admission: 5 yuan

Open: 8:30 am - 4 pm, except Wednesday

Tel: 6353 3772

Continued on page 21 ...

... continued from page 20

Tenzhe Temple

First Buddhist temple

By Jackie Zhang

Tanzhe Temple located on the Tanzhe Mountain in Mentougou District, is 30 kilometers out of the downtown. It is hugged by mountains and forests.

The temple was built in 307 AD. It was the first temple built when Buddhism entered Beijing. It used to be a small temple named Jiafu Temple. Buddhism was slow to catch on in Beijing, and consequentially the Jiafu Temple fell into abandonment. In Tang Dynasty (618-907), the temple began its boom.

During Wuzetian Period (696-697), Huayan Monk came to the mountain to establish a temple with the support of the local government. The Jiafu Temple

was already in the area. Huayan established new halls and enlarged the temple. His renovations became the foundation of the Tanzhe Temple. Two springs were behind the temple: Longquan and Hongquan. The springs provided water for the temple's daily use and to irrigate its fields. At that time, Tanzhe Temple was called Longquan Temple.

In Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the ruling class was very taken with Buddhism and sponsored the construction of many temples. During their reign, the Tanzhe Temple was renovated and enlarged several times. Emperors and their wives, as well as officials, frequented the temple. Many monks from Japan and India also came to study Buddhism.

The temple today has 943 rooms, in which there are 638 halls. The architecture is of typical Ming and Qing (1636-1912) style. Old trees, various flowers, rockeries and streams are scattered across the temple. Services including traffic, accommodations,



food, entertainment and shopping are available in the area.

Getting there: Take subway Line 1 and get off at Pingguoyuan Station. Then, take 931 bus which goes there directly.

Admission: 35 yuan per person

Open: 8 am – 5:30 pm

Tel: 6086 2244

Hongluo Temple

Origin of Buddhism in the north

Hongluo Temple is a massive site which combines natural landscape and man-made architecture. It consists of two scenic spots and three Buddhist areas.

The two scenic spots are Hongluo Hill at the back of the Temple and Qinglong Hill to the east. Hongluo Hill, its natural barrier, has two peaks about 800 meters high. In spring, you can see brightly-colored pavilions; in autumn, red leaves all over the hill. At least 10,000 of Qinglong Hill's ancient pines are over 100 years old.

It is one of the most important forests in Beijing. There are stone carvings of the twelve animals of the zodiac and 100 sets of stone tables and stone stools for tourists.

The air is clear and fresh and the environment is quiet. Locals say if you stroll in Arhat Valley once, all your diseases will be cured. It is a good place for

tourists to relax.

The three Buddhist areas are the Hongluo Temple, Bodhisattva Guanyin Temple and 500-Arhat Statues Garden. Hongluo Temple has a history stretching back 1,600 years. The temple was built at the foot of the mountain, facing south. Most of its buildings were erected during the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Buddhisattva Guanyin Hall is located halfway up the mountain. It takes half an hour to get there along the path for climbers.

Hongluo Temple has relatively good tourist facilities. The Bamboo Fragrance Restaurant and the restaurant in Hongluo Hill Resort can accommodate a banquet for 500 guests. Hongluo Hill Resort, located in the pinewoods, has an architectural style that is a combination of Chinese courtyard and Japanese log cabin. There are 200 beds of various grades, a gym, a karaoke lounge and conference rooms. In the morning, you can stroll in the pinewoods to enjoy the fresh air far from the city.



Getting there: Hongluosi Temple is in Huairou District in northern Beijing. You can take buses 916 and 936 from Dongzhimen to Huairou, then taxi to the temple.

Admission: 40 yuan

Open: 7 am – 6 pm

Tel: 6068 1967



CFP Photos

Biyun Temple

Well-preserved garden-style temple

Biyun Temple, built in 1331 and expanded in the Ming and Qing dynasties, is a well-preserved park-style temple. It is located at the north end of the Xiangshan (Fragrant Hills) Park in Haidian District. When it was first built, it was a small nunnery.

Yu Jing, a eunuch who was favored by the Emperor, loved the place and enlarged the nunnery and built a tomb for himself behind the temple in 1516. At that time, locals called it Yugong Temple. But

Yu was imprisoned and was unable to be buried in his tomb as planned.

In 1623, another eunuch Wei Zhongxian took a fancy to the place. He enlarged the temple again and planned to make it his tomb after death. However, he was imprisoned for 5 years and the tomb was abandoned.

Because of the enlargement, most of Biyun Temple was built in Ming style. In Qing Dynasty, the temple drew attention of various emperors and their wives. It was enlarged again in 1748, when a pagoda and Luohan Hall were built.

There are six courtyards from the gates at the

lowest point of the temple to the top.

The Sun Yat-sen Commemorative Hall is in the third courtyard. In 1925, the body of Sun Yat-sen was kept at the temple in March, and in May, was buried in Nanjing. In 1954, the courtyard in Biyun Temple was renovated as Sun-Yat-sen Commemorative Hall.

Getting there: Once you get to Xiangshan Park, you can find the temple at the north gate. There are many buses to the park including 331, 360 and 904.

Admission: 10 yuan per person

Open: 8 am – 5 pm

Tel: 6259 1155 ext 470

Negotiations: Arm yourself with two guns



By Morry Morgan

Earlier this year in Beijing, my friend's corporate *ayi*, broke her leg while doing personal shopping over the weekend. It happened while getting on a bus, but the details are fuzzy.

What we do know, however, is that the following day, her husband stormed into the office.

"My wife has broken her leg," he screamed in Chinese. "I want compensation!" He slammed his fist on the reception desk to drive his point home.

The receptionist was understandably shocked by the man's behaviour and froze in her chair.

On hearing the commotion from down the hall, my friend jumped up from his desk and headed to reception. What he saw on arrival was a short, squat man, finger wiggling inches from the seated receptionist. The husband was talking too quickly for my friend, a British expatriate, to understand, but the tone was obvious: anger.

Now, it is important to remind the reader at this point, that the *ayi*'s condition was not caused by any of the staff of the office. Rather, it was a freak transport-related accident. Nevertheless, the husband had chosen to vent his rage on the receptionist.

My friend, who was bamboozled by what was occurring in front of him, turned to the receptionist, and was just able to make himself audible over the

ranting to ask, who was this man and what did he want.

"He's the husband of the *ayi*," the receptionist said. "He wants compensation."

"OK. How much does he want?" my friend asked.

"How much do you want?" the receptionist asked, switching languages.

"Eight hundred yuan," he said.

There was a

pause, as my friend surveyed the red-faced husband.

"Sure.

Give it to him," my friend said, as he turned away to walk back to his office.

As soon as the husband was paid his frown was replaced with a smile. He counted the money quickly, slipped it into his bag, and joyfully strode out of the office. He had been successful in this negotiation or so he thought.

When we go into a

negotiation, we are armed with two guns. One, I call the friendly gun; the other, the angry gun. Like a cowboy, carrying two guns is always better than one. If you miss with one, you have another chance with the other. But the order in which you fire each is essential.

Think of all the times others have made you angry and you have fired your angry gun first. The purpose of the anger is to "correct" the situation, by either informing the other person of their mistake, or by emphasising how we have been wronged. However, there are two pathways to correcting a situation; one uses negative force, and the other positive. And

once the angry gun is fired, there is no going back. No chance to play Mr. Nice Guy, and therefore you are only armed with one weapon.

Moments before the husband's arrival, my friend had been sitting in his office contemplating compensation for the *ayi*. After all, she was a lovely lady and he truly empathized with her trauma, even though his company was not liable. That empathy vanished when her husband burst into the office firing his angry gun wildly with his verbal attack.

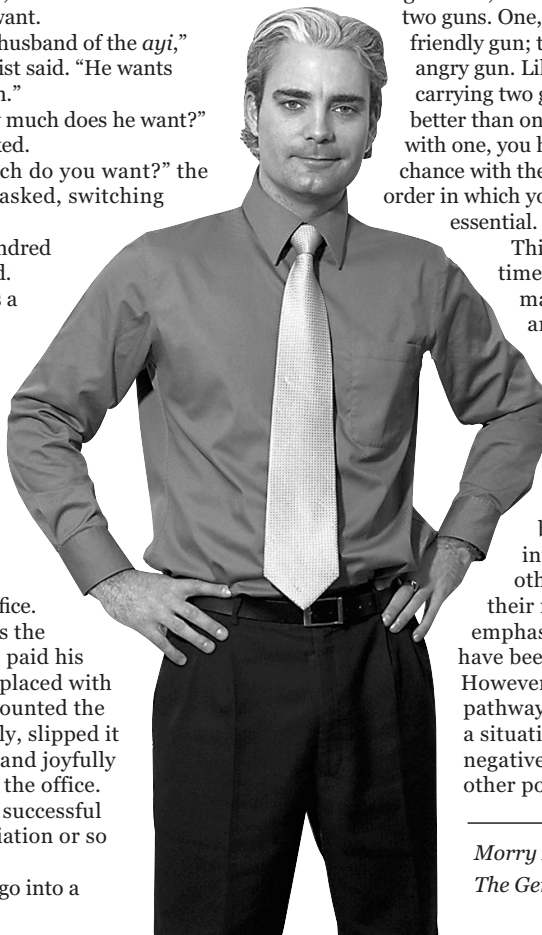
How very different things could have been if the *ayi*'s husband had only used the friendly gun first. Why did he choose to "correct" the situation using negative force? Perhaps because it had worked in the past. Unknown to the husband, however, the outcome would have been very different had he decided to fire the friendly gun first.

My friend had been contemplating 2,000 yuan in compensation.

Morry Morgan is the general manager for ClarkMorgan Corporate Training, Training Firm of the Year in 2007. He has been involved in sales and negotiations in Australia and China for 11 years, and is a regular keynote speaker on the Chinese mainland China and Hong Kong.

Morry Morgan

The General Manager for ClarkMorgan Corporate Training



Where you can get Beijing Today



Crowne Plaza moon cakes

With Mid-Autumn Festival approaching, Crowne Plaza offers two sets of moon cake gift boxes with varied flavors. The superior box with six pieces is priced at 188 yuan and a Deluxe box of eight pieces is 258 yuan.

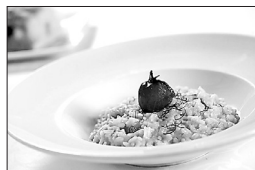
Where: Crowne Plaza Beijing, 48 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng
Tel: 5911 9488



Piedmont's delicacies

From September 8 to 28, the Grand Hyatt Beijing will offer a perfect combination of good food and wine from Piedmont, a paradise for gourmets and connoisseurs of vintage wines in Italy.

Bagna Caoda, with its sauce of anchovies, garlic, butter and cream, is your preferred fondue. Other dishes are as likely to be created using butter



and cream and olive oil, while pastas and risottos are often flavored with delicate shavings of truffle or saffron, which is another popular risotto ingredient.

Where: Da Giorgio Italian restaurant, Grand Hyatt Beijing Hotel, Beijing Oriental Plaza, 1 Dongchang'an Jie, Dongcheng

Tel: 8518 1234 ext. 3628



Traders Hotel moon cakes

During this Mid-Autumn Festival, Traders Hotel Beijing will offer an enticing array of moon cakes in time-honored and contemporary-day varieties, packaged exquisitely in gift boxes.

A range of gift vouchers and celebratory hampers packed full of the finest goodies are also available throughout the festive season.

Where: Traders Hotel Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

Tel: 6505 1841



(By Sun Feng)



ST REGIS

北京国际俱乐部饭店

Sunday champagne brunch awaits you at the Garden Court Restaurant every Sunday from 11:30am to 3pm. You will enjoy a varied buffet including seafood, sushi, roasts, omelettes, cheese and puddings while witnessing the celebrated chefs creating these succulent dishes right in front of you.

Sunday champagne brunch



The price is 418 yuan plus a 15 percent surcharge. The meal includes free-flowing Mumm Champagne, imported red and white wines, and soft drinks.

The St. Regis's signature Bloody Mary cocktails are also on offer.

Where: the Garden Court, the St. Regis Beijing, 21 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

Tel: 6460 6688 ext. 2340/2341



GLORIA PLAZA HOTEL

北京凯莱酒店

Gloria Plaza Beijing has prepared a series of three traditional Cantonese moon cakes for your choice, which are named Golden Happiness, Four Happiness and Autumn Moon.

Where: Gloria Plaza Hotel Beijing, 2 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

Cost: 188 - 328 yuan

Tel: 6515 8855 ext. 2155

Traditional Cantonese moon cakes



Novotel Hotel moon cakes



To celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Novotel Hotel presents two series of moon cakes of different flavors.

One choice is the combination of a

Japanese and Cantonese moon cake series, which is priced at 99 yuan. The other is 139 yuan, with 10 moon cakes combining Western-style and Taiwanese flavour.

Where: Novotel Beijing Xinqiao, 1 Chongwenmen Xi Dajie, Chongwen

Tel: 6513 3366 ext 1879/1288

Looking for fun on old Yuan streets

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Nanluoguxiang guide

Editor: Zhang Nan Designer: Zhao Yan

BEIJING TODAY

By Jackie Zhang

Nanluoguxiang is one of the oldest streets of the capital's 25 protected areas. Its recent popularity with magazines and as the set for many televised dramas has made it a hit with the younger crowd. Its classical architecture draws many foreign tourists.

It is at the west end of Dongcheng District. The hutong jutting off the street date back to Yuan Dynasty (1267-1368). At that time, the eastern part of Nanluoguxiang was called Zhaohuifang and the west was Jing-gongfang. The street between the two parts

was Nanluoguxiang.

In Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1636-1912) dynasties, the lanes became the haunts of the city's rich, especially nobles, artists and writers. Hundreds of its 1,000 courtyards were home to notable historic figures.

There are eight hutong on each side of the street, including the Yu'er Hutong, Mao'er Hutong and Heizhima Hutong. The area looks like a centipede, with Nanluoguxiang the body and the 16 hutongs its legs.

The street is the best-preserved chess-board-style courtyard construction in Beijing.

Every hutong shows different styles of brick carving, archways, screen walls and other kinds of courtyard architecture.

More than 100 cafes, restaurants, bars, workshops and stores have opened to serve the area's tourism boom.

Some people say Sanlitun is colorful, Houhai is red in color and Nanluoguxiang is green. It is not only because of the natural colors in the areas, but also because of the culture and history. Every hutong on the centipede street has cultural relics, and every courtyard has a story.



The inside of Pass By Bar

Photos by Blinking

Embracing the sun and the stars with friends

By Annie Wei

When owner Jin Xin opened the Pass By Bar in 1997, Nanluoguxiang was still unknown.

His motivation for opening a bar was simple. Jin liked hanging out with friends for drinks. At that time, there were not as many Western bars and restaurants as there are today. As a solution, Jin opened Pass By, a laid-back place to drink and dine with friends.

With a background in art, Jin quickly turned the obscure

into something special. Now the Pass By Bar's spacious interior is decked out in Tibetan style. Tibetan masks hang on the walls, wooden furniture sits on the floor and the courtyard is filled with soothing background music.

Ju'er Hutong did not allow foreigners to live in the area until 2003, when the government implemented a policy change that allowed them to rent local apartments. Nowadays, the bar sees many fresh

faces. The expanding expat community continues to introduce new waves of tourists to Pass By.

To stay competitive in the face of expanding Nanluoguxiang business, Pass By opened its second location at No 114. This restaurant and bar serves more delicate cuisine than the original, and also offers delivery and catering services.

Where: 108 Nanluoguxiang

Tel: 8403 8004

Open: 10 am – 2 am next day

Fish Nation is perfect for parties

By Annie Wei

Fish Nation is known for British-style fish and chips. Its first shop at Sanlitun is a bit small, but provides a good selection for hungry late-night clubbers. In 2005, Fish Nation opened its second location in Nanluoguxiang.

The new restaurant has rooftop seating and a spacious, well-decorated first floor. It has a wooden

door, long tables and big chairs. The ceiling seems higher than other restaurants on the street.

Aside from the namesake fish and chips, the Nanluoguxiang branch offers gourmet pizzas, salads, pastas, soups and a British-style breakfast with wine and other drinks. A set lunch costs 39 yuan, but is plenty of food for most diners. The meals

are served on simple white plates. Both the pizza and the fish dishes come highly recommended, especially the bass in aluminum foil or fish and chips.

Visit Fish Nation in summer to enjoy the night breeze, a mojito and conversation with good friends.

Where: 31 Nanluoguxiang

Open: 9:30 am – 1 am next day

Tel: 6401 3249

Cozy Mecca for Beijing backpackers

By Wei Ying

Backpackers around the world have something in common – at least the ones who make it to China do. The youth-oriented rooms at the Downtown Backpacker Cafe offer a cozy environment with sofas for reading, Internet access, opportunities to meet and chat, enjoy coffee and a Western-style breakfast.

The cafe is open not only to backpackers, but to anyone looking for a nice cafe in

which to relax.

Even for the traveler with limited tolerance for hotels rated less than four stars, the Backpacker is still a nice place to visit. It is a wonderful experience and an immersion into the lives of the young and brave hearts who explore the world with only a backpack.

Where: 85 Nanluoguxiang

Open: 10 am – 2 am next day

Tel: 6401 8792

Other hot spots

Sandglass Cafe

This comfortable cafe is located at the entrance of the Mao'er Hutong. Through its narrow entrance is a small room with bookshelves and green plants. Many Chinese patrons say its red sofas, curtains and old organ remind them of the music room in elementary school.

The coffee is pure and priced reasonably. Its almond and tofu is a must-taste. The Kung Fu Italian Coffee Jelly is designed by the owner.

Where: 1 Miao'er Hutong, Nanluoguxiang

Open: 1 pm – 1 am next day
Tel: 6402 3529

Local Time Cafe

It is located at the northern entrance to Nanluoguxiang. Its high ceiling is made of glass, and the cafe has sofa seating by its windows. Its bookshelves are stocked with all manner of reading material, and computers are available.

Where: 1 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 2 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 8405 0349

Vietnam Di Da Cafe & Bar

This Vietnamese-style cafe is in a two-storied building. Through the narrow wooden stairs, you can climb onto the roof for an elevated view of Nanluoguxiang. Drinks and dishes are authentic Vietnamese fare. If you like black coffee, come to taste its Di Da Coffee and see how much bitterness you can endure.

Where: 155 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 10:30 am – midnight
Tel: 6407 5055

Heart is a Lonely Hunter

The cafe is named for the

novel *The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers. An old-style TV rests in front of the door depicting a scene from the book jacket on its screen.

Black and white photos show a cool Margaret Duras and Carson McCullers. The interior decor is distinctly Western. Coffee, cocktails, ice, tea and snacks are served to a backdrop of English songs.

Where: 36 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 6405 5161

(By Jackie Zhang)

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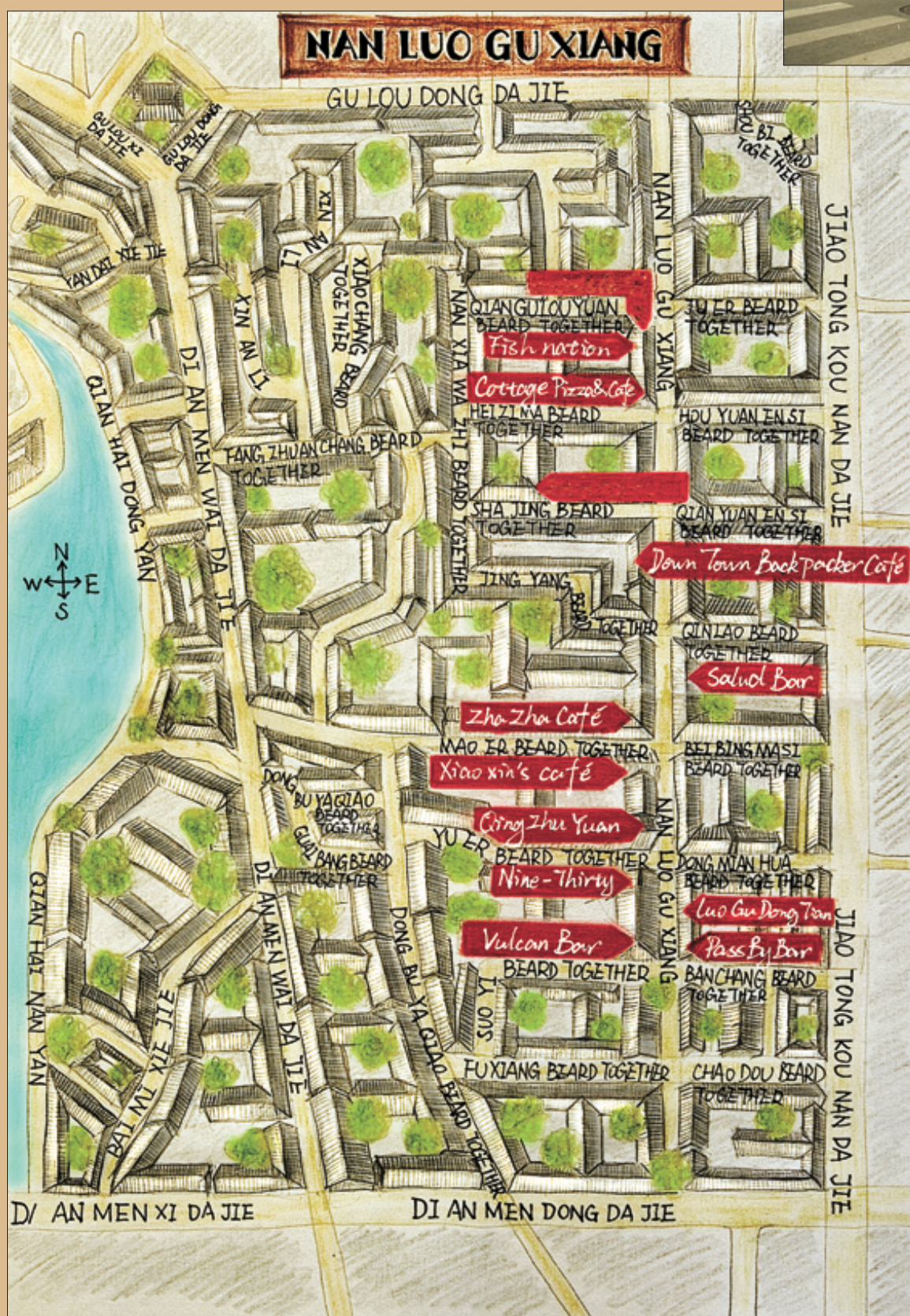




Nanluoguxiang is a place to find traditional and classic Chinese culture.



The archway of Nanluoguxiang at its southern entrance. CFP photos



Vulcan Bar

Where: 143 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 10 am – last guest
Tel: 8404 0561

Pass By Bar

Where: 108 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 10 am – 2 am
Tel: 8403 8004

Luogudongtian

Where: 102 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 8402 4729

Nine-Thirty Cafe

Where: 91 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 11 am – midnight
Tel: 6402 9800

Qing Zhu Yuan

Where: 113 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 8 am – midnight
Tel: 6401 3961

Xiao Xin's Cafe

Where: 103 Nanluoguxiang
Open 9:30 am – midnight
Tel: 6403 6956

Zha Zha Cafe

Where: 101 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 9:30 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 8402 4851

Salud Bar

Where: 66 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 3 pm – last guest
Tel: 6402 5086

Downtown

Backpacker Cafe

Where: 85 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 10 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 6401 8792

Downtown Backpackers Accommodation

Where: 85 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 24-hour check-in, needs reservations
Tel: 8400 2429

Cottage

Where: 17-2 Nanluoguxiang
Open: noon – 11 pm (Monday to Friday), noon – midnight (weekend)
Tel: 8404 0378

Fish Nation

Where: 31 Nanluoguxiang
Open: 9:30 am – 1 am next day
Tel: 6401 3249

(By Jackie Zhang)